To

Shri M F Farooqui,
Secretary,
Department of Telecommunication,
New Delhi 110001

Sub: Benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% as on 01.01.2007 for the purpose of fitment in the revised pay scales of BSNL employees – Payment of arrears of pay to the BSNL Employees for the period between 01.01.2007 and 09.06.2013 on application of revised fitment benefit, Reg.

Ref: (1) DOT OM No. 61-01/2012-SU dated 10.06.2013
(2) BSNL letter No. 1-19/2012-PAT(BSNL) dated 08.08.2013

Sir,

In continuation to our earlier representations regarding non-extension of the benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% as on 01.01.2007 as the fitment benefit in the revised IDA scales to the BSNL employees who retired between 01.01.2007 and 09.06.2013, we would like to invite your kind attention to another serious aspect of the case regarding payment of pay arrears to all the BSNL employees for the period of 01.01.2007 and 09.06.2013.

BSNL’s letter dated 08.08.2013 to DOT as at (2) above, makes it clear that it has assumed that as if the Presidential Directive issued by DOT, vide the OM dated 10.06.2013, conveys a decision that no arrears will be paid permanently for the period from 01.01.2007 to 09.06.2013 to all the BSNL employees which otherwise are due to them. But DOT’s above stated OM dated 10.06.2013 has specifically ordered that “President is pleased to approve the proposal of BSNL regarding the fitment as per Department of Public Enterprises OM No. 2(70)/08-DPE(WC)-GL-VII/09 dated 02.04.2009”.

BSNL, on the other hand, has confirmed vide its letter No 1-19/2012-PAT(BSNL) dated 08.08.2013 to DOT that “...... a proposal, with the approval of BSNL Board,
wherein, it was proposed to extend the said benefit to the BSNL employees w.e.f. the date of approval of the competent authority and the payment of arrears to be considered after the Company’s operation become profitable, was sent to DOT.....”.

3 Thus, when the Presidential Directive says that the President has approved the proposal of BSNL and since the BSNL states that its proposal contained that the payment of arrears to be considered after the Company’s operation become profitable, gives no scope to take a stand that DOT has ordered to forfeit the claim of arrears of the employees for the period between 01.01.2007 to 09.06.2013 for good. Further, DOT’s OM dated 10.06.2013 has further stated that President has approved the proposal of BSNL regarding the fitment as per Department of Public Enterprises OM No. 2(70)/08-DPE(WC)-GL-VII/09 dated 02.04.2009. It has also ordered in its said OM dated 10.06.2013 that “All instructions/guidelines issued by DPE from time to time in this regard may be scrupulously followed.” In this connection it is submitted that DPE’s instructions dated 02.04.2009 or any other instructions/guidelines on the issue gave no order or permitted any PSU or in that case their respective Administrative Ministries for that purpose to deny benefit of pay arrears to the eligible PSU Employees on account of fitment benefit in revised IDA pay scales ordered for implementation w.e.f. 01.01.2007. This can be deferred and even paid in multiple installments, but cannot be forfeited forever.

4 In view of the above submissions, it is earnestly requested that a speaking order on the above stated subject be issued by DOT at the earlier to clear the air of doubts regarding payment of arrears for the period 01.01.2007 to 09.06.2013 to all the BSNL Employees who were granted revised IDA pay scales on 01.01.2007 and had been in service during the said period.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S Basu)
General Secretary

Copy to:
1 Shri S.C. Misra, Member (Services), Telecom Commission.
2 Smt Sadhana Dixit, Member (Finance), Telecom Commission.
3 Shri R K Upadhyay, CMD, BSNL.