



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION
Central Headquarters

**111, New Ashiana Apartments, Plot-10, Sector-6, Dwarka,
New Delhi 110 075**

Website address: <http://aibsnlreachq.brinkster.net>

President: P D Shukla

General Secretary: S Basu

Financial Secretary: Hari Ram Bharti

No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2009/17

Dated June 05, 2009

To

Shri A Raja,
Minister of Communications & IT,
Government of India,
New Delhi 110 003.

Subject: Non extension of the legitimate benefits to the absorbed BSNL Pensioners.

Hon'ble Sir,

We would like to draw your kind attention to the great injustice being meted out to the absorbed BSNL pensioners by Department of Telecommunications and seek for your kind intervention for immediate redressal of their two important grievances.

2. As per Rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, the Government of India is responsible for payment of pension/family pension to the absorbed BSNL pensioners. Accordingly, the Department of Telecommunications issues Pension Payment Orders and makes the payment of pensions/family pension including Dearness Relief through its various Controllers of Communication Accounts. The Department of Telecommunications is also responsible for revising the pension/family pension and Dearness Relief as and when the revision of pay scales and IDA revision, as the case may, takes place. But to our utter dismay we find that despite our repeated requests, the Department of Telecommunications is not extending the following two benefits to the absorbed pre-2007 BSNL pensioners:

(A) Non-extension of benefit of merger of 50% IDA to the absorbed pre-2007 BSNL pensioners:

DOT/BSNL issued Orders long back for merger of 50% IDA with the basic pay of the BSNL Employees with effect from 1.1.2007. But no order was issued to extend its benefit to the pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners. However in case of the Government pensioners, the benefit of merger of 50% of Dearness Allowance ordered for the Central Government employees w e f 1.4.2004, was made available to the pre-April 2004 Government Pensioners. DOT is simply delaying this issue. It has already obtained an undertaking from BSNL Board regarding its payment. It has also obtained the views of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and

Department of Public Enterprises. Both these Departments have made it clear that DOT alone has to do the needful on the matter. DOT's own Legal Adviser, is said to have confirmed that the benefit of merger of 50% IDA to the pre-2007 BSNL pensioners cannot be denied. But DOT is still not extending the benefit.

(B) Non-revision of pension/family pension of the pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners:

Following issue of Orders for revision of IDA pay scales of the BSNL Executives with effect from 01.01.2007, DOT should have issued orders for revision of pension/family pension for the pre-2007 BSNL pensioners. But till this day, no order has been issued on this matter. We understand that DOT has mooted a proposal to pay pension and its revision on CDA pattern, though as per Rule 37-A, the pension is to be paid and also being paid at present in IDA pattern only. Several Government Orders and even DOT's own affidavit in Supreme Court in a related case in the same court concerning the absorbed employees of VSNL clearly stated that pension to the absorbed employees drawing pay in IDA scales has to be on IDA pattern only. Even the absorbed employees of Food Corporation of India are getting their revision of pension/family pension in IDA pattern. We understand that even the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, the nodal Department to decide pension related issues, did not clear the proposal of DOT. The Department of Legal Affairs (Ministry of Law) is also said to have raised doubts. We are, therefore, unable to appreciate why the DOT is acting in the negative direction and delaying revision of pension/family pension to the pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners.

3. Under the above background, we would be extremely grateful if the above two issues are settled immediately to remove the frustrations in the absorbed BSNL pensioners who are being unjustifiably denied of their financial benefit which are due to them as per Government's own laid down Rules and norms.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(S Basu)
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Shri Siddhartha Behura,
Secretary (T), DOT.
2. Smt Rajni Razdan,
Secretary, DOP&PW.
3. Shri V K Shukla,
Member (Services), Telecom Commission.
4. Shri R Ashok,
Member (Finance), Telecom Commission.
5. Shri Kuldeep Goyal,
CMD, BSNL