



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

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No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2021/34

Dated: 13th July 2021

To
Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw,
Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Sub: Non-payment of claims for reimbursement of medical expenditure in respect of Retired BSNL employees since FY 2018-19 – Request for personal intervention

Respected Sir,

Your taking charge as Minister of Communications & IT has renewed the lost hope of BSNL employees, especially the BSNL Retired employees, in view of your diverse education in Engineering as well as Administration and your vast experience as Collector, Entrepreneur, Deputy Secretary of PMO, Deputy Chairman of a Government of India Undertaking – Mormugao Port Trust and Member of Parliament.

2. Your priority would be putting back BSNL and MTNL on the rails, by ensuring implementation of the remaining issues in Government's Revival Plan for BSNL and MTNL approved by the Union Cabinet on 23-10-2019. However, **we are constrained to approach you on a very serious and long pending issue concerning the BSNL IDA Pensioners who are not being reimbursed their medical claims for the past three years - FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21, by BSNL.** These pensioners incurred the expenditure out of their meagre pension, both for outdoor and indoor treatment. Repeated representations to BSNL have failed to evoke any positive response. The standard reply we get is that payment will be released as soon as funds are made available. On the other hand, BSNL regularly clears the medical bills of serving employees, while keeping the retired employees suffering. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, While the serving employees are sanctioned Rs.2 lakhs Medical Advance for hospitalization due to COVID-19, the claims submitted by retired employees for the same purpose remain unpaid.

While there is no paucity of funds with BSNL when it comes to the serving employees, the retired employees are discriminated against on the plea of lack of funds.

3. **BSNL has also drastically reduced the annual ceiling for outdoor medical treatment for retired employees, when the cost of treatment and cost of medicines have been increasing steeply.** It refuses to address our grievance over this decision, by simply stating that this is a policy decision.

4. Recently BSNL has asked its retired employees to submit fresh option for medical claims with **resubmission** of documents like cancelled cheque in original, PAN card, Address Proof and working Mobile number, with the condition that **claims for the period 2020-21 will be released only if these documents are submitted by 10.08.2021.** This has given room to concerns whether the claims for the years 2018-19, 2019-20 will ever be released at all.

5. In view of the above facts, we earnestly request your kind personal intervention in the matter and directions to BSNL administration to allot required fund for clearing all the pending medical claims of the retired employees, both for outdoor treatment with and without voucher and for hospital treatment and resolve the grievances immediately.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


(R.R. Balasubramanian) 13/7/21

Asst. General Secretary
For General Secretary

Copy to: 1. Shri Anshu Prakash,
Secretary, DoT, New Delhi
2. Shri P.K Purwar,
CMD BSNL, New Delhi