



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

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No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/08

Dated: 10.02.2020

To

Shri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of India,
Lok Kalyan Marg,
New Delhi 110001.

Sub: Total neglect of the interests of the Senior Citizens in the Budget proposal 2020-21-defying the assurance of the Prime Minister in his Message dated 31st March 2015 to the Elders of the country.

Sir,

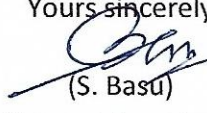
With heavy heart, to express our total disappointment with the budget proposal regarding personal taxation, we are constrained first to quote a few important assurances that you had given in your Message dated 31.03.2015 to the Elders of the country as follows: "At this juncture, you have simple needs. You look forward to a peaceful and healthy life. And a life of dignity and respect, where you do not have to depend on others".....Thus, it is the nation's responsibility to look after you.....My Government is thus committed to ensuring that your golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully". Unfortunately, we now find that the Budget proposal for the year 2020-21 regarding personal (direct) taxation presented in Parliament has totally failed to respond to your declaration.

2. All these years, considering the special need of the Senior Citizens, the budgets used to give some special concessions to the Senior Citizens for computation of their Income Tax. The Senior Citizens always used to be given exemption from income tax on a higher limit of income compared to the other category. In addition, they used to get besides other tax benefits, exemption upto certain limit on interest income on deposits under 80 TTB, Standard deduction etc. But now, under the new tax regime, all these benefits have been taken away from the Senior Citizens and they have been put on the same pedestal with other category of personal income tax payers. Thus, the Senior Citizens have been deprived of the benefits that they were enjoying from time to time. No doubt, the old taxation system will parallelly continue. But it is again without any improvement according to the present need.

3. In view of the special consideration that the Senior Citizens always do need because of their vulnerability and inherent weakness, **we earnestly appeal to you to reconsider the budget proposal in regard to personal taxation and allow continuation of certain benefits**

like exemption of income tax upto a higher stage of income, retention of standard deduction, benefits of 80 TTB etc. even in the new income tax regime. Let your commitment given in your Message dated 31.03.2015 to the elders of the country that *"My Government is thus committed to ensuring that your golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully"* gets implemented in letter and spirit.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S. Basu) 10.2.2020
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Shri Om Birla,
Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.
2. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,
Minister of Finance.
3. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot,
Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment,
New Delhi.