



## Editorial

### COMPREHENSIVE PENSION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM LAUNCHED

Comprehensive Pension Management System (CPMS), an end-to-end software developed and implemented by the Department of Telecom, has finally been officially launched at 4 PM on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The CCAs, all over India, arranged for a function which was held simultaneously in many CCA HQs. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, who was in Varanasi in connection with UP Government's "One District One Product" initiative and dedication/laying foundation stone for other development program, in his address, mentioned briefly about the launching of CPMS and its objective to benefit the pensioners. He also mentioned about opening of a CCA Office in Varanasi so that the Pensioners of the area are not required to visit CCA Office at Lucknow.

According to the FAQ uploaded in [www.dotpension.gov.in](http://www.dotpension.gov.in), the Comprehensive Pension Management System (CPMS) is said to cover all activities starting from pension sanction, authorization, and disbursement. It also enables the pensioner to track latest status of his pension. The retiring employees will be given user ID and Password on their mobile number to enable them logging on

to [www.dotpension.gov.in](http://www.dotpension.gov.in). After implementation of CPMS, the pension will continue to be credited to the designated bank account of the pensioners. However, Controller of Communication Accounts (CCA) becomes the pension disbursing authority (PDA) in place of Post Offices and CPPC of Banks. Thus, the CCA becomes the single window authority dealing with all pension related activities.

It is claimed that CPMS implementation will benefit the pensioners in the following ways: (1) Direct transfer of pension by the CCA to the pensioner's bank account through CPMS will eliminate the delay caused by involvement of the CPPC (2) It will eliminate the need for Transfer of pension cases from one Circle to another. This in turn will ensure that pensioners drawing pension in a bank located in another state (different from where he retired) start getting pension without any time-lag. (3) Any revision in pension will get effected without delay. Calculation and payment of arrear will take place automatically once the pension is revised. (4) The time-lag between change in Dearness Relief (DR) and its payment will be minimized as latest DR rates will be

updated centrally. (5) Age-linked enhancement of pension will take place on attaining the designated age. (6) The pensioner will be able to access and take print-out of details of pension payment by logging into CPMS with the login ID provided to the pensioner. (7) TDS and Form-16 will be provided by the CCA without any intervention from the pensioner.

The Pension will be credited to the account on the last day of the month and the arrears etc will be credited to the account Out of Cycle on the earliest possible day. In the case of unfortunate death of the employee/pensioner, death certificate along with Life Certificate of the family pensioners are to be sent to the CCA Office.

Although CPMS has officially been launched, according to information gathered, the process is yet to commence even for the new retirees. For them, the pension sanction process is still being done manually. According to the Sampann website [www.dotpension.gov.in](http://www.dotpension.gov.in) only 71 pensioners have been benefitted till a few days back, with Rs.6.46 crores disbursed and 90 transactions made. For those who are already drawing pension through banks and post offices through HPPC, the current system will continue till orders for migration is issued. There will be no

provision for option at that time. Those who are to retire in the next few months, may follow the procedure in the website, fill up the form and submit other details for processing their pension through CPMS. For them, after pension is processed, PPO will be sent by post. The clarifications furnished to our representatives by the CCAs in the functions held at different cities on some important issues are contradictory and not supported by any official document or Order. Thus, we cannot take them as authentic.

However, the FAQ is completely silent on the earlier decision of DOT to open "Pensioners' Service Centres" in the BSNL SSAs/Units. It is also silent on the issue of submission of Annual Life Certificate. Though it says that Form 16 will be provided by the CCAs, it is silent how the same will be provided. As regards, supply of monthly pension slips, it is not clear whether the pensioners will receive the same in their registered mobile numbers. The FAQ has said that all grievances can be taken up with CCAs on given phone numbers. But given our experience with the functioning and attitude of the officials in CCA Office, we believe that resolution of grievances will be next to impossible. Finally, we can say that the concerns that we expressed on few major issues remain unaddressed.

## **KNOW SOME FACTS**

- A month back, it was told that the DOT has agreed in the meeting held between the BSNL Unions/Associations and the MOSC to delink revision of pension of the BSNL IDA pensioners from revision of IDA pay scales of the serving BSNL employees. But the record of discussions of the said meeting prepared by DOT and circulated by BSNL did not mention

about delinking. Subsequently, same sources said that DOT has sought the views of DOP&PW whether it is permissible to consider delinking pension revision from pay scale revision. Thus, there is no truth that DOT has agreed to de-link revision of pension from revision of pay scales in the meeting held between the unions/associations and the MOSC.

- Certain queries raised by DOT on the proposal of BSNL for pay scale revision for the serving executives were earlier duly replied by BSNL Management. But this reply has failed to satisfy DOT since BSNL tried to justify availability of fund to meet the additional expenditure mainly on the strength of possible refund of pension contribution made under FR 116 on the maximum of pay scales and reduction of retirement age of the employees to 58 years. But DOT has not accepted these arguments and has asked BSNL to send fresh reply based on prevailing conditions only. DOT has also asked for the status of wage negotiation of the non-executives.
- On our representation, citing court judgments in an individual case, to allow notional increment falling due on the day following superannuation on completion of one full year service for pensionary benefits, BSNL has intimated that to earn the increment presence in the office on the next day after completing full years' service is necessary. It has further stated that annual increment cannot be released in the case of a retired employee. Earlier, Government stated in a written reply in the Parliament that the judgment delivered by Madras Court and dismissal of the SLP filed against this judgment by the Supreme Court in an individual case is personal to the Petitioner only and thus refused to extend the benefit to others.
- It is reported that MTNL proposed to offer VRS to its employees and wanted DOT to fund for the same. But DOT has declined to provide fund for VRS to MTNL employees.

### **INCREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 01.01.2019**

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, IDA is to increase w.e.f. 01.01.2019 by 3.2% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and by 5.3% where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

### **ISSUES TAKEN UP**

**NON-SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL AND ALSO NON-GRANT OF CONSEQUENT PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI S P CONTRACTOR, RETD SDE, GUJARAT BY DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS – AIBSNLREA NOW TAKES UP THE CASE WITH SECRETARY (PENSION):** Having failed to get response from Department of Telecommunications despite repeated persuasions in getting the above issue redressed, AIBSNLREA now takes up the

case with Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW. The Association has requested that “We, therefore, earnestly request you kindly to advise Department of Telecommunications to immediately issue the much-needed Orders for absorption of Shri S P Contractor, Retd SDE who last served in BSNL, Gujarat so that he receives his long pending pensionary benefits and other dues”. [\[View posting dated 27.12.2018 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

**NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS TO THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES IN SANGRUR SSA DESPITE RELEASE OF FUNDS - AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CGMT, PUNJAB:** AIBSNLREA has written a letter to CGMT, Punjab Telecom Circle requesting his intervention for payment of medical claims for outdoor treatment to the retired BSNL employees in Sangrur SSA of Punjab Telecom Circle. [\[View posting dated 18.12.2018 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL REGARDING NON-CLEARANCE OF PENDING MEDICAL CLAIMS OF THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF BSNL:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Director (HR), BSNL about non-clearance of medical claims of the retired BSNL employees which are pending for several months and in some cases even over a year. The Association writes “We are told that Corporate Office is not allotting sufficient fund for reimbursement of medical claims on stated financial crisis. But to our surprise, we find that the same BSNL has no problem in allowing expenditure on non-essential items. Recently BSNL, over ruling its earlier Order, has allowed purchase of diaries and calendar for the employees/offices. You may kindly agree that expenditure on Diary/Calendar cannot get overriding priority over medical treatment of the aged retired employees who solely depend on their meagre pension for livelihood. Anyhow, we do not have any objection to BSNL’s decision to incur expenditure on non-essential items. But at the same time, we expect BSNL to look into the genuine needs of its past employees also”. The Association has finally requested BSNL to clear all the pending medical claims of the retired employees. [\[View posting dated 13.12.2018 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

## **RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS**

**NON-ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDER FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL FOR SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR TRIPATHI, RETD SDE AND SETTLEMENT OF HIS PENSIONARY BENEFITS – BSNL FURNISHES THE FINAL STATUS REPORT OF THE CASE TO AIBSNLREA:** AIBSNLREA took up the above issues and pursuing them since long with different authorities. Now after issue of Presidential Order for absorption and also the formal retirement Orders, BSNL (NTR) has sent a final status Report of the case to this Association. [\[View posting dated 26.12.2018 in this website to read the BSNL, NTR letter\]](#).

**DOT FURNISHES MISSING HBA RECOVERY PARTICULARS OF SHRI A B MURMU, RETD DGM, KOLKATA TS TO QA & INSPECTION CIRCLE, JABALPUR IN CONNECTION WITH RETURN OF HIS ORIGINAL LAND DEED:** The Association took up the issue of non-return of original land deed to Shri A B Murmu despite full recovery of his HBA. In this connection, the QA & Inspection Circle had been asking DOT to furnish some missing HBA particulars which was not being furnished. After failing to get response from DOT, the matter was then taken up with Secretary (Pension),

DOP&PW by the Association which advised DOT to examine the issue and inform the Association [View posting dated 12/11/2018 in this website]. Now DOT has furnished the said missing HBA particulars to QA & Inspection Circle and informed the Association accordingly. [\[View posting dated 19.12.2018 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

**AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ON DENIAL OF ANNUAL INCREMENT EVEN ON NOTIONAL BASIS FALLING DUE ON THE DAY FOLLOWING SUPERANNUATION ON COMPLETION OF ONE FULL YEAR OF SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS– DOT FORWARDS THE REPRESENTATION TO BSNL FOR APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL ACTION:** AIBSNLREA had last represented to Prime Minister of India on the above issue [View posting dated 1.10.2018 in this website]. DOP&T had in turn forwarded the copy endorsed to Secretary, DoP&T to the Department of Telecommunications. Now DOT has forwarded the same to BSNL for appropriate remedial action. [\[View posting dated 08.12.2018 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

## **BRANCHES IN ACTION**

**MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, GUJARAT STATE BRANCH HELD:** Gujarat State Branch of AIBSNLREA held a meeting, which was presided over by Shri P B Parmar, State President, on 17.12.2018 at Ahmedabad Medical Association Hall, Ahmedabad to observe Pensioners' Day. The meeting started with lighting of lamp & prayer. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of the departed members and the family members. Dr. Shashank Rathod, a well-known Eye Surgeon, gave a demonstration on EYE disease. Dr. Kamal Kapoor, CCA Ahmedabad gave lecture regarding direct payment by CCA instead of through CPPC of Banks & Postal H.O Both of them cleared the doubts raised by the members. Guests were honored by presenting bouquets. Shri C.J.Patel presented the Report of the State Secretary briefing the members on many important issues taken up with concerned authorities by the state branch, Pension Revision & payment of medical bills etc. Shri B.M.Bhavsar, Org Secretary (W) CHQ also addressed the house and gave a lecture on celebration of Pensioners' Day on 17<sup>th</sup> December every year, delinking of pension revision from pay revision of BSNL employees, hurdles in payment of medical bills etc. The Branch Secretaries briefed the house about the activities in their branches. The meeting was conducted by Shri R.H.Barot. Vote of thanks was presented by Vice-President Shri R.M.Nayi. The Meeting was followed by dinner. About 275 members attended the meeting. Twenty new members were added and total membership reached to 1200.

**AMRAVATI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA (WEST VIDARBHA REGION) HELD ITS GB MEETING:** AIBSNLREA, Amravati Branch (Maharashtra State) held a GB Meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri G. M. Talmale, Vice-President of the Branch, at about 1400 hrs. of 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 in the Conference Hall of G. M. Telecom, BSNL, Amravati. The meeting was attended by 30 members of the Branch. Branch Secretary Shri D. V. Rokade informed the house about the developments taken place after the last meeting held in August, 2018. He elaborated the developments in respect of payment of pending medical claims (with vouchers) and without Vouchers as per revised medical option and gave the latest status. On the day of meeting, two new members i.e. Sau. S. R. Deshmukh, Retd JTO and Shri A.R. Pawar, Retd AGM joined the Association. The house

welcomed them. Shri Y.T. Behare, was unanimously elected as the Organizing Secretary of the Branch which was vacant following the sad demise of Shri R V Bokade. Shri V. G. Dakhode, State Secretary, AIBSNLREA, Maharashtra State, in his brief address, discussed about the latest position of the Court Case, 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC developments and also highlighted the other important key issues being processed at the State and All India level. The queries raised by the members were duly replied by him. Thereafter, the meeting concluded with the vote of thanks presented by Shri M.Z.Shinde , Financial Secretary

**LUCKNOW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HOLD A GB MEETING:** A General body meeting of Lucknow Branch of AIBSNLREA was held in the Recreation Club in Kaiserbagh Telephone Exchange Building, Lucknow on 12.12.2018 under the presidentship of Shri Jagdish Prasad. 49 members attended the meeting out of which 5 were enrolled as new Life members. Branch Secretary Shri S P Singh submitted a brief Report on the Branch activities from 5th August 2018 to 12th December 2018 which included pursuance of Medical claim bills in Lucknow Telecom District, attending Pension Adalat in CCA office Lucknow on 18.09.2018 and collection of Rs 25601/- as donations towards PMNRF from 41 members. Information on Status report of the court case on Pay and pension arrears issue, nonpayment of medical bills, Pension Revision etc were shared with the members. 78.2% IDA Revision case of Sri Ramnath Rao, Retd JTO, NTR, Lucknow which was taken up by CHQ with Member (Finance), Telecom Commission, New Delhi on 01.09.2018 and the PPO issued by Pr. CCA Delhi Region on 29.10.2018 has since been returned back to Pr. CCA by CCA Lucknow on 27.11.2018 for want of Pensioners Code. The meeting concluded after presentation of vote of thanks by the President.

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA KANPUR BRANCH HELD:** The General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Kanpur Branch was held on 22.11.2018 and discussed the issues related to BSNL absorbed pensioners. A new body has been elected with almost the same set of office bearers. Shri Dharm Das, Shri S.B.Saini and Shri Lal Singh have been re-elected as President, Secretary and Finance Secretary respectively.

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA AMBALA BRANCH HELD:** A general body meeting of Ambala Branch was held on 27th November 2018 at Dilli Durbar Restaurant. The meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri P. C Chauhan, President of the Branch and was attended by 35 members. One new member also joined the Association as life member taking the total membership to 65. Shri J C Gupta Branch Secretary addressed the meeting on various issues confronting the members. The members expressed great concern regarding pension revision as pay revision has not been implemented. They wanted to explore ways to ensure pension revision, as pay revision has been linked to affordability clause. The members were also very much aggrieved on non-payment of medical bills which results in great harassment to the pensioners. Even pensioners with serious ailments who have paid the hospital bills in cash are not being reimbursed their expenditure. Shri K L Gakhar retd CAO entertained the members by singing bhajans and Punjabi songs. The meeting ended with vote of thanks and followed by lunch.

## **STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER 2018**

**Lucknow Branch (Uttar Pradesh State)** has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 18/12/2018 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

**Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State)** has deposited Rupees nine hundred fifty (Rs. 950/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 18/12/2018 as contribution for seeking legal remedy on pay/pension arrears collected from 3 members. This is in addition to Rs 550/- remitted earlier on 28.11.2018 for the same purpose.

**Lucknow Branch (Uttar Pradesh State)** has deposited Rupees one thousand two hundred (Rs 1200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 14/12/2018 as CHQ quota for six new Life Members.

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*Edited and published by Shri S Basu, General Secretary, AIBSNLREA*