



## Editorial

### SENIOR CITIZENS/PENSIONERS - EASY PREY TO THEIR LUST AND GREED

**T**he senior citizens – specially the pensioners have always been the soft target of some unscrupulous persons/organized groups seeking to rob them of their hard earned money. These persons/groups lure them with false promises for some financial benefits or otherwise in order to make them fall into their trap and finally part them from their hard-earned savings which are their only means to take care of their needs in their old age.

**A** couple of years back, there had been many instances where the senior citizens/pensioners from all Departments were receiving personal calls in the name of helping them to get their balance of GPF or additional bonus of LIC. Many of our members and other pensioners had also become their target. We had to take up the matter with CBI and then with Delhi Police to take action against these cheaters. The Police also cracked down on these cheaters and many of them were sent behind bars. Unfortunately, a few of our own members did not pay heed to our advice and responded to their call and sent money to get more in return. But finally, they found themselves in a soup after being duped.

**O**f late, many of our members are frequently getting messages to join a group in a legal process to get back their denied pension arrears, lost DCRG, Commuted Value of Pension etc following revision of their pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA. They are even asking the pensioners to “trust” them. But can they really be “trusted” upon? What is their past track record? Did not these people join hands with ITS some years back to demand pension revision in presumptive CDA pay scale and thereby tried to inflict recurring huge financial loss to the BSNL IDA pensioners? Is this not the same group which termed the DOT’s Presidential Order dated 10.06.2013 on 78.2% IDA as “notional” and even suggested to DOT to fix the pay on the last day of retirement so that no pay and pension arrears need to be paid? Moreover, did this same group not welcome the DOT’s defective order dated 18.7.2016 on pension revision with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA and call this a ‘historic victory’ and go into wild celebrations? Is this not the same group which even expressed their gratitude to Secretary, Telecom after issue of this defective order? Having betrayed the causes of the BSNL IDA pensioners all along,

now they are projecting themselves as the saviours of the pensioners and are again trying to deceive the retired BSNL IDA pensioners in the name of going to court to fight for the arrears.

**I**f they are to be believed then there can never be any order from courts to extend the same benefit to the similarly placed persons unless all individuals become the party. They also claim that even the Associations cannot go to court on 'representative capacity' on common cause. But our experience and conviction is just the opposite. Did TESA not get the benefit of judgment of N S K Nair & Others case on seniority of "hold charge" DEs in DOT extended to all similarly placed persons – even though all of them were not individually party in the case? While the petitioners in the said case were just a few that could be counted on one's fingers the benefit of the judgement was extended to hundreds of similarly placed "holding Charge " DEs who were given seniority in DEs grade retrospectively resulting in many of them getting regular promotion to DGM

which they might not have even dreamed in those days. More importantly, how the historic judgment in D S Nakara & others case ensuring pension revision consequent to liberalization of Pension Rules got implemented for one and all of the past pensioners who were not a party in the case. Hundreds of such cases can be cited to prove the point. It all depends on how and for whom the prayers and relief are sought in the petitions. The messages from the group calling the BSNL pensioners to join the legal case only betrays their hollowness in the legal issues apart from their eagerness to deceive the BSNL pensioners and squeeze from them a part of their hard earned pension arrears. Thus, there is no reason for us to be carried away by the latest mischievous propaganda that each affected person has to be a party in this case. AIBSNLREA which is totally committed to the cause of the pensioners would not like them to be the victims at the hands of some unscrupulous persons/groups. It is processing well on course, as committed, to get justice for all the affected BSNL IDA pensioners. ☹

## ISSUES TAKEN UP

**A**IBSNLREA AGAIN TAKES UP THE ISSUE OF PENSIONERS' IDENTITY CARD TO THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS IN THE REVISED FORMAT LINKING THE AADHAR NUMBER AS ORDERED BY DOP&PW: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to DDG(Estt), on the above issue since there is no apparent further progress in the matter. The Association points out that after exchange of few communications between Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the matter is still unresolved. It has requested DDG(Estt), DOT to intervene in the matter so that the issue gets resolved without further delay. [View posting dated 31.01.2017 in this website to read the letter](#)

**AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA AGAINST DEENIAL/NON-RESTORATION OF BENEFIT OF SECOND ACP TO THE RETIRED CIVIL WING EXECUTIVES OF BSNL BY WEST BENGAL CIVIL ZONE, BSNL, KOLKATA ON FLIMSY GROUNDS AND IN UTTER DISREGARD TO THE ORDERS/CLARIFICATIONS ISSUED ON THE SUBJECT BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND APPEALS FOR HIS IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION:** AIBSNLREA has since been pursuing the above issue with all concerned wherein BSNL Civil Zone, Kolkata had withdrawn the benefit of second ACP granted to 16 of its retired SDEs (Civil) by deliberately linking the ACP Scheme with "BSNL MSRR 2009" with the issue which has no relevance in the present case. Moreover, DOP&T had already clarified that the regular service for the purpose of ACP was to be counted from the direct entry grade of the officials. Further, BSNL Corporate Office has also clarified that "diploma in appropriate field of engineering with 10 years of experience shall be construed to equivalent to Degree in Engineering". But the BSNL Civil Zone, Kolkata is not taking into cognizance of these clarifications and linking the issue with "BSNL MSRR 2009" which is totally wrong and unacceptable, since ACP Scheme is governed under separate Orders of the Government of India. The Association has referred to a reply received from BSNL Civil Zone, Kolkata vide its No. 11-01/20156-CEEZ/1331 dated 17.10.2016 [view posting dated 10.12.2016 in this website to read the letter] wherein it tried to justify its wrong action. The Association has now sought the kind intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for restoration of the benefit of second ACP to the 16 retired SDEs (Civil) and also extend the benefit to the other eligible retired SDEs. [View posting dated 30.01.2017 in this website to read the letter](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL FOR GIVING GREEN SIGNAL TO CGM, ITPC, PUNE TO IMPLEMENT THE WEB BASED PROGRAM FOR MONITORING MEDICAL CLAIMS OF BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEES BY USING HIS OWN FINANCIAL POWERS:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Director (HR), regarding implementation of BSNL's letter dated 10.08.2016 to CGM, ITPC, Pune for development and implementation of a web based program to monitor the medical claims of the BSNL retired employees. The Association has pointed out in its letter that "We had discussed the issue in a meeting held with General Manager (Admn), BSNL on 20.12.2016 in his chamber and was told that the CGM, ITPC Pune has been advised to cut down the cost of the server needed for the purpose. Thereafter, we have tried to ascertain the position from the office of CGM, ITPC, Pune and have come to know that the projected cost is the barest minimum and there is no cushion to reduce it further. We also understand that CGM, ITPC, Pune may get it implemented within his financial powers, if your office gives him the green signal". Accordingly, the Association has urged Director (HR) "to kindly advice the CGM, ITPC, Pune to get the said web based program implemented immediately within his financial powers" [View posting dated 27.01.2017 in this website to read the letter](#)

## GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

**DOP&PW ISSUES CLARIFICATION REGARDING TIMELY PAYMENT OF GPF FINAL PAYMENT TO THE RETIRING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO AVOID PAYMENT OF INTEREST:** As per Rule 11(4) of GPF Rules 1960, in case the GPF balance is not paid on retirement, interest on the GPF balance is required to be paid for the period beyond the date of retirement also. Now DOP&PW has issued a detailed clarification on the measures to be taken to ensure timely final payment of GPF and avoid payment of such interests. [View posting dated 29.01.2017 in this website to read the DOP&PW Order](#)

**BSNL ISSUES DIRECTION TO ALL ITS UNITS, IN RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING UNDUE DELAY IN PROCESSING THE PENSION PAPERS OF THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BEFORE 10.06.2013 EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% IDA LEADING TO NON-ISSUE OF REVISED PENSION PAYMENT ORDERS, AND SEEKS REPORTS:** AIBSNLREA had been perusing with BSNL in the matter of abnormal delay in many of its field units to process the cases for revision of pension of the absorbed BSNL pensioners and forward the same to the CCA Offices which resulted in non-issue of revised PPOs and instructions to the pension disbursing authorities to revise the pension and pay the arrears thereof. Now BSNL has taken note of the present state of affairs and issued an instruction stating that: "..... It is, therefore, requested that information regarding current status of implementation of the said order be furnished to this office and revision of remaining PPOs be expedited so that payment of revised pension/family pension is made at an early date". [View posting dated 18.01.2017 in this website to read the BSNL letter](#)

**DPE ISSUES ORDERS FOR REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.1.2017 FOR THE CPSEs WHERE LAST PAY REVISION WAS IMPLEMENTED W.E.F. 1.1.2007:** Department of Public Enterprise has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.1.2017 from 120.3% to 119.5% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. [View posting dated 10.01.2017 in this website to read the DPE Order.](#)

**DPE ISSUES ORDERS FOR REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.1.2017 FOR THE CPSEs WHERE LAST PAY REVISION WAS IMPLEMENTED W.E.F. 1.1.1997:** Department of Public Enterprises has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.1.2017 from 272% to 270.7% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997 [View posting dated 10.01.2017 in this website to read the DPE Order.](#)

## ACTION ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

**B**SNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING NON PAYMENT OF ENHANCED GRATUITY TO THE ABSORBED BSNL IDA PENSIONERS: BSNL has since responded to AIBSNLREA's representation to the Prime Minister of India regarding non-payment of enhanced gratuity to the BSNL IDA pensioners following issue of Orders by DOP&PW enhancing the limit of gratuity to Rs 20 lakhs w.e.f. 1.1.2016. BSNL has informed that Director (HR) had already taken up the matter with DOT requesting to issue detailed guidelines on the matter. A reminder was also subsequently issued by General Manager (Estt), BSNL Corporate Office. BSNL has further informed the representation of the Association is transferred to DoT for taking further necessary action in the matter. [View posting dated 26.01.2017 in this website to read the BSNL letter](#)


### BRANCHES IN ACTION


**A**IIBSNLREA, WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH MEETS CCA, WEST BENGAL CIRCLE: The President, State Secretary and Assistant State Secretary of AIBSNLREA, West Bengal Branch had a prescheduled meeting with CCA West Bengal and other officers on 25th January to discuss the status of Pension revision and other pensioners' related issues. The Association representatives thanked the CCA for uploading the list of 1325 revision cases settled as on 16th January. The CCA informed the representatives that another 225 cases which have already been settled and other 375 disputed (wanting Bank A/c No. etc.) cases will also be uploaded by 31st January, 2017. It was further reported that out of total 6000 plus revision cases, only about 2500 cases from different BSNL units have so far been received. The Association objected to the mode of delivery of the personal copy of the revised PPOs to the Pensioners' last office and wanted these be sent to their residences. The CCA readily accepted the request of the Association and instructed his officers to send the personal copies of the revised PPOs to the respective pensioners' addresses. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere.

**S**ULTANPUR BRANCH (UP STATE) OF AIBSNLREA RECONSTITUTED: Sultanpur Branch of AIBSNLREA in UP State, which was formed in 2009 with members on monthly subscription basis, has been reconstituted on 09.09.2016 with 8 Life Members. S/Shri Ram Asare Mishra, Retd CAO and R K Upadhyay, Retd DE were elected as the Branch President and Branch Secretary respectively. Shri R K Tiwary, Retd Sr. SDE is the Finance Secretary of the Branch.

**A**IIBSNLREA, ODISHA BRANCH MET CGMT, BSNL, BHUBANESWAR: The Office bearers of Odisha State Branch along with Shri Banamber Swain met CGMT, Odisha in his chamber on 18.01.2017 and discussed the following issues:- (1) appointment of a Nodal officer of GM level

to coordinate with the concerned branches to process the grievances of the pensioners, (2) case of Shri Banamber Swain quoting the prevailing rules and orders to settle his cases for Commutation, Gratuity with interest and reconciliation of some instalments of HBA deduction schedule with CCA, (3) expeditious settlement of cases for revised pay fixation order with 78.2% IDA, (4) arbitrary limitation of medical reimbursement claims, in violation of the existing orders, for tests conducted in reputed pathological labs to that of CGHS rates even when the claims are well within the yearly eligibility limits. The CGMT assured to consider the points raised by the Association.

 **DISHA STATE BRANCH HELD A GB MEETING:** A General Body Meeting of Odisha State Branch of AIBSNLREA was organized on 11.01.2017. Issues regarding non-issue of Revised Pension Payment Orders with benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA as on 01.01.2007 was discussed in detail. Cases of S/Shri D.L.Das and Banamber Swain also came up for discussion. Four new life members joined the Association. In this GB Meeting, following few changes in the State Body was carried out: S/Shri Amarnath Sahoo and Radha Shyam Patra were elected as CWC Members. Shri P K Kar was elected as Asst. State Secretary. S/Shri Bibhu Prasad Mishra and Bhimasen Sahoo were elected by the GB as the Organizing Secretaries. The GB meeting was followed by a grand Picnic with the participation of the family members. The participants enjoyed the program and took part in various entertaining items and contributory lunch. It was decided to meet again in April 2017. **View photograph**

 **KOLHAPUR BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING:** Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) of AIBSNLREA held its quarterly General Body Meeting on 08.01.2017 under the presidentship of Shri L M Godi, Branch President. He welcomed all the members and after the prayer informed the house about the sad demise of Shri. SG Naik, Rtd.AE Civil and a Life Member of the Branch. The House observed 2 minutes' silence in memory of the departed soul. Shri D K Joshi, Branch Secretary then informed the House about the developments taken place after the last quarterly GB Meeting held in October 2016. He gave elaborated account of the developments on the issue of revision of Pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% of IDA and gave the latest status regarding the progress of pension revision work in the concerned SSAs and also in the Circle in general. He also informed about the major events of year 2016 and wished the more colorful year of 2017. The status of the issues taken up by CHQ with Director (HR), BSNL Corporate office was also given to house. Regarding Medical bills, he asserted both the Association and BSNL are trying for early settlement. Then Shri PS Kulkarni, Asst. Secretary informed about the proposed short trip and requested the interested members to register their names. Shri SG Kanade from Sangli, then gave a brief but impressive presentation Jeevan Katha, and Value of Numbers in one's life and India's gift of ZERO to the world 'Ank Shashtra'. He spoke in detail on one's Life span, Health and Ayurvedic gift to Human Life. Thereafter, Shri PS Kulkarni introduced Shri Abhiram Dixit, CA and Guest for the occasion to the House who gave a presentation on "GST & Common Man." Shri Dixit, in his presentation

elaborated how GST strengthens national economy and benefits common men. Shri DN Khanvilkar, Retd. AGM and a Life Member of the Branch offered to host the lunch after the meeting on the occasion of sweet arrival of a granddaughter in his family. Thereafter Shri PS Kulkarni gave of Vote of thanks to the Guest and presented a small gift from the Association. He also thanked all other members. The meeting concluded with Lunch at 1400Hrs.

**NEW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA FORMED IN BALLIA (UP STATE):** A General Body Meeting of the retired BSNL Executives of Balia was held in Balia Telephone Exchange on 07.01.2017 in the presence of Shri Yad Ali, Branch Secretary, AIBSNLREA, Varanasi. Eight retired Executives attended the meeting. After some discussions, it was decided to form a Branch of AIBSNLREA in Balia and followings were elected unanimously as the Office Bearers of the Branch: Shri M Z Ansari, President (Mob No 9415244486), Shri Khurshed Ahemad, Branch Secretary (Mob No 8546039202) and Shri R Y Sharma (Mob No 9415248973), Finance Secretary.

**SURAT BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:** Surat Branch of AIBSNLREA, Gujarat State held its General Body Meeting on 2nd January, 2017. Total 46 members attended the meeting. 8 new members were also enrolled. The meeting started with welcome speech by Branch Secretary Shri N. J. Nakawala. He also presented his report on the activities during the period from the last meeting. Shri A. B. Patel, State Secretary informed about the position of revision of pension as per 78.2 % IDA cases of Surat SSA and other issues. Shri B. M. Bhavsar, Organizing Secretary (West), CHQ also addressed the house and informed about the latest position of the important cases and other matters. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair and the participants.

## STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JANUARY 2017

**Kanpur Branch (UP State)** has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400.00) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 30.01.2017 towards quota for 2 new Life Members.

**Sultanpur Branch (UP)** has deposited Rupees one thousand six hundred (Rs. 1600.00) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 25.01.2017 towards quota for 8 new Life Members.

**Udisha State Branch** has deposited Rupees eight hundred (Rs. 800.00) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 13.01.2017 towards quota for 4 new Life Members.

**B**allia Branch (UP) has deposited Rupees two thousand two hundred (Rs. 2200.00) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 11.01.2017 towards quota for 11 new Life Members.

**S**aharanpur Branch (UP) has deposited Rupees Four thousand four hundred (Rs. 4400.00) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 06.01.2017 towards quota for 22 new Life Members.

**S**hri Ram Nath Gupta, Retired DGM(Finance), ITPC, Pune from Muzaffarpur(Bihar) has sent an amount of Rs. 550/- by cheque dated 26.12.2016 drawn on SBI since deposited in AIBSNLREA's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 03.01.2017 for Life Membership. He has been enrolled as Life Member of Headquarters Branch.

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