



Editorial

REVISION OF PENSION WITH FITMENT BENEFIT BY MERGER OF 78.2% DA GETS INVOLVED IN SNAKES AND LADDERS GAME

Even a casual look in the progress of the proposal for “revision of pension/family pension of pre-2007 and post 2007 BSNL pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2007 by allowing the benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2%” will certainly convince one and all that it has unfortunately got involved in the Snakes and Ladders game. Every time when it appears that the proposal is about to reach the finishing board, it faces a snake on the playing board and slips down further at the bottom point. This time, when everyone was convinced that the proposal will take no time to get through and reach the MOC&IT for his approval before it is sent to Cabinet Secretariat, it unexpectedly lost the direction and failed to reach the target. It may be recalled that the final cabinet note in file was put up to the new Secretary(T) for his clearance before it could be sent to MOC&IT. But as usual, a few opportunistic persons found it the right opportunity for them to strike and plead with Secretary(T) to simultaneously consider the revision of pension of the MTNL pensioners along

with the benefit of merger of 78.2% DA which is not yet implemented in MTNL. Following this, the file was sent back to examine the matter and thus the proposal again faced a snake on the board to go down the bottom.

We know, who are these “well wishers” of the pensioners - now wanting to announce their presence. They are among those who once vehemently opposed revision of pension of the absorbed BSNL pensioners in IDA scale and held series of official meetings with the then Secretary (T) demanding revision of pension only in CDA scale as originally demanded by ITS Association. These are the same people who did not support our demand to extend the benefit of 50% merger of DA to the absorbed BSNL pensioners/family pensioners which was ordered by DOT for the serving employees of BSNL. They remained unmoved even by the fact that in case of the Government employees and its pensioners/family pensioners, no such discrimination was made. These are the same people who remained totally [contd]

indifferent when the fitment benefit by merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% was implemented in BSNL w.e.f. 1.1.2007 only for those who were in service on or after 10.06.2013, but NOT to those who retired after 1.1.2007 but before 10.06.2013, even though these employees were also in service on 1.1.2007 i.e. the day on which the revised fitment benefit of 78.2% IDA in lieu of 68.8% IDA was allowed in the revised IDA pay scales. How can a section of the employees receive revised IDA pay scales with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA and the other section with fitment benefit by merger of 68.8% IDA, even though all these employees were in service on 1.1.2007 i.e. the date when the revised IDA pay scales were implemented in BSNL ? Had this discrimination been not allowed to take place, today at least this section of the

pensioners would not have continued to suffer.

Now the question comes whether these people did not know that MTNL, at present, has no case for revision of pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA since this benefit has not been implemented for the serving employees of MTNL till this date? This question may be better replied by these people only - who themselves declare the issues as settled on having the glimpses of the Officers on the 'corridor' of buildings. But the fact remains that these people are continuing to damage the interests of the BSNL pensioners – knowingly or unknowingly.

Now that the issue is in right track, it is hoped that no one will again make a move to play Snakes and Ladders game with an intention to ensure that the proposal again faces a snake.

NO HIKE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2016

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, there will be no increase in IDA w.e.f. 1.4.2016 for both the CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA URGING TO STRENGTHEN THE GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM OF THE PENSIONERS AND ALSO TO SET UP SEPARATE TRIBUNAL EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PENSIONERS TO EXPEDITOUSLY SETTLE THEIR GRIEVANCES:

AIBSNLREA has written a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India highlighting the failure of the existing grievance redressal mechanism for the Pensioners and urging to "create a separate

Tribunal in all important cities exclusively for the Pensioners which can hear the petitions of the aggrieved pensioners expeditiously and give judgment. To begin with, separate courts exclusively for the pensioners be created in all the benches of Central Administrative Tribunals". This is the follow up action of the editorial that AIBSNLREA had published in its March 2016 issue of e-journal "Second Innings". The Association has also requested all the Pensioners' Associations which are now connected with SCOVA to take up the issue at their level. [\[Posting dated 23.03.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter\]](#)

"RESTORE THE RATE OF INTEREST ON THE DEPOSITS UNDER SENIOR CITIZENS SAVING SCHEME" - AIBSNLREA APPEALS TO THE PRIME MINISTER: AIBSNLREA has written a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India expressing serious concern and deep anguish of the pensioners on the decision of the Government to reduce the rate of interest on deposits in Senior Citizens Saving Scheme unmindful of its impact on the pensioners who just try to manage their livelihood by investing their life-time savings in the 5 year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme, since the pension being received is inadequate to meet their need. AIBSNLREA has further appealed to the PM "to kindly restore the rate of interest on the deposits under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme and remove the gloom that has descended on the face and souls of the pensioners". [\[Posting dated 21.03.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter\]](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY(T) EXPRESSING DEEP ANGUISH AND DISSAPPOINTMENT OF THE BSNL PENSIONERS DUE TO SUDDEN INTERRUPTION IN THE PROCESS OF CLEARING THE CABINET NOTE FOR MUCH AWAITED REVISION OF PENSION OF THE BSNL PENSIONERS RETIRED BEFORE 10.06.2013: AIBSNLREA has since written a letter to Secretary (Telecom) expressing deep anguish and disappointment of the BSNL pensioners "due to sudden reversal of the process to send a Cabinet Note to allow revision of pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% DA to the absorbed BSNL pensioners which became due following extension of fitment benefit of 78.2% DA for re-fixation of pay of the serving employees of BSNL." It may be recalled that the final cabinet note in file was put up to Secretary(T) for his clearance before it could be sent to MOC&IT. It is reported that a few opportunistic leaders found it right opportunity to plead with Secretary(T) to simultaneously consider the revision of pension of the MTNL pensioners along with the benefit of merger of 78.2% DA which is not yet implemented in MTNL. Following this, the file was sent back to examine the matter. In our letter, we have pointed out that there is no case for revision of pension for the retired MTNL employees as at present since the fitment benefit with merger of 78.2% DA has not been implemented even in respect of the serving MTNL employees. Besides other issues, we have also pointed out that "revision of pension of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners following revision of pay scales of the BSNL employees w.e.f. 1.1.2007 was ordered first. The case of MTNL pensioners, at that time, was not tagged with the case of the BSNL pensioners". Finally, we have requested Secretary (T) "to kindly get the Final Cabinet Note for revision of pension of the absorbed BSNL pensioners with

fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% sent to appropriate authority for early clearance”. [\[Posting dated 20.03.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter\]](#)

ACTION ON AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSURANCE TO EXTEND THE BENEFIT OF OPTION TO RETAIN CDA PAY SCALE TILL THEIR PROMOTION OR RETIREMENT WHICHEVER IS EARLIER IN CASE OF GROUP C & D EMPLOYEES OF DOT SINCE ABSORBED IN BSNL– DOP&T FORWARDS AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION DATED 23.11.2015 TO DOT FOR APPROPRIATE NECESSARY ACTION: AIBSNLREA had last taken up the above case with the Minister of State for (PP) since the Department of Telecommunications was not implementing its own offer made in its General Terms and Conditions for Service for absorption in BSNL for “an option to retain Government Pay Scale i.e. CDA pay scale till their promotion or retirement whichever is earlier” to the absorbed Group C & D Employees [View posting dated 24.11.2015 in this website]. Now Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T) has sent the said representation, vide its F.No. Dy.No.1141294/16-Estt.(Pay-II) dated 18.03.2016 to Secretary, Department of Telecommunications for ‘appropriate necessary action.’ [\[Posting dated 27.03.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the DPE letter\]](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES SENDS AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION SEEKING INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER IN THE MATTER OF GREAT INJUSTICE METED OUT TO THE ABSORBED BSNL EMPLOYEES IN GENERAL AND BSNL EXECUTIVES IN PARTICULAR IN THE MATTER OF THEIR PAY AND PENSION TO DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS: AIBSNLREA had taken up with the Prime Minister of India the issue of virtual change of terms and conditions of Service for absorption in BSNL and MTNL allowing advantage of pension by Government to the MTNL absorbees by retaining their one stage higher pay scales till next pay revision after completion of absorption process and thus discriminating against the BSNL absorbees whose pay scales/pensions were not upgraded to the level of the MTNL absorbees. [View posting dated 12/02/2016 in this website to read the letter]. The Prime Minister’s Office had also forwarded the said representation to Secretary, Department of Telecommunications for taking action on the matter [View posting dated 19/02/2016 to read the letter from PMO]. Now Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), vide its No. W-09/002/2016-DPE(WC) dated 09.03.2016, has also forwarded the same representation to Department of Telecommunications [Shri J S Deepak, Secretary] “... for appropriate action in light of the extant guidelines on the subject”. [\[Posting dated 14.03.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the DPE letter\]](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

BIMONTHLY GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, AKOLA BRANCH HELD: AIBSNLREA, Akola Branch (Maharashtra) held its Bimonthly General Body meeting on 8th March 2016 at 12.00 PM at the residence of Shri D.M. Deshmukh Rtd. JTO Shegaon Dist. Buldhana. Thirty four (34) members were present in the meeting and four new Life Members were also enrolled in this Branch. After enrollment of these members, the membership of Akola branch increased to 56 members. Shri A.G. Nema Branch Secretary welcomed all the members including the new members. Branch Secretary apprised about the latest position regarding the case of merger of 50% I.D.A. effectively amounting to 78.2%. The members expressed their unhappiness over long delay in this matter. The house discussed on recommendations for next year's budget in which no additional relief is proposed to the pensioners. The members emphasized over re-implementation of payment of quarterly medical allowance without submission of vouchers. In the present system there is considerable delay in payment of Medical bills on some or the other reasons. Branch President Shri V.V. Bhagat Rtd. DE highlighted the importance of the Association and urged the house to help in enrollment of new retired executives. The arrangement of lunch was jointly hoisted by Shri V.K. Dawange Rtd. SDE Khamgaon and Shri D.M. Deshmukh Rtd. JTO Khamgaon. The house conveyed thanks for the nice arrangements made by both members at holy place "*Gajanan Nagri, Shegaon*". The meeting was adjourned after presentation of vote of thanks by Shri S.P. Kulkarni Rtd. DGM Buldhana.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF PALAKKAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: A General Body meeting of Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) was held at Top In Town auditorium in Palakkad on 08-03-2016 at 10.45 AM. Forty (40) members attended the meeting. The main discussion was on the unsettled pension revision case with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% DA. Secretary explained the current status of the issue. All the members were highly agitated. Members strongly opined to go to court of law. Income Tax exemption limit of Rs. 15,000 towards medical reimbursement is still unchanged and as such needs a hike due to present high price for medicines. Restoration of medical allowance has so far not been settled. These issues were debated at length. Three new members were co opted to the Working Committee. It was also decided to call for a GB Meeting in coming June to elect new office bearers. The meeting continued up to 13.30hrs. Afterwards, lunch was served and the members disbursed at 14.00 hours.

WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA MEETS, CGM WEST BENGAL TELECOM CIRCLE: A delegation of AIBSNLREA, West Bengal State Branch comprising of S/Shri S.K.Maitra, S.R.Palit, N.H.Siddique, Amal Basuroy, Debashis Mitra and Dhrubojyoti Goswami met the CGM, West Bengal Telecom Circle Shri R.N.Jha on 1st March 2016. The association highlighted various problems of the executives retired from WB Telecom Circle. Among other issues, the Association concentrated on non-payment/delayed payment of medical bills (both indoor & outdoor) and strongly urged parity with the serving employees in the case of processing and

payment of Medical Bills of the pensioners. Discussions were also held on the issue of 2nd ACP in Civil Wing, wrong pay fixation of Aurobinda Chaudhury Ex EE(Civil), less payment of commutation to Shri C.M.Singh Ex CS CTO. CGM assured the delegation that he was aware of all these issues and has already formed a committee to address the pensioners' grievances.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, SANGRUR BRANCH (PUNJAB) HELD: A general body meeting of retired executives of Sangrur SSA was held at Kaula Park, Sangrur on February, 27 under the president ship of Shri P K Jindal, Retd DGM. The Association welcomed 7 new members who joined the Association in the meeting thus raising the membership strength of the branch to 14. In the meeting, S/Shri Manohar Lal, Retd DE and Jagtar Singh, Retd JAO were co-opted as the Organizing Secretary and Executive Member respectively of the Branch. Shri Parshotam Lal, SDE offered his office to use for holding meetings and the members thanked him for his gesture. The Branch Secretary and the President highlighted the various issues being taken up with different authorities. The members expressed their concern on the delay to extend the benefit of 78.2% DA merger to those executives who retired between 1.1.2007 to 9.6.2013.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING MARCH 2016

Udaipur Branch (Rajasthan) has deposited Rupees Two hundred (Rs 200.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 19.03.2016 towards CHQ quota for one (1) new life member.

Akola Branch (Maharashtra) has deposited Rupees Eight hundred (Rs 800.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 11.03.2016 towards CHQ quota for four (4) new life members.

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