



Editorial

LONG WAIT FOR CLEARANCE OF DRAFT CABINET NOTE ON REVISION OF PENSION WITH REVISED FITMENT BENEFIT

The clearance of draft Cabinet Note for revision of pension of pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners and also those who retired between 01.01.2007 and 09.06.2013 with revised fitment benefit by allowing effective merger of 78.2% IDA is still facing the rough weather from DOT's own Internal Finance Division. We do not find any real ground to justify holding back the file so long except for the callous, indifferent and sadistic attitude of the Officers in Department of Telecommunications dealing with the issue. We are to keep in mind that every aspect of the related issues revolving round the case was critically examined by Department of Telecommunications while finalizing the proposal in consultation with its own Internal Finance. Even the question of annual pension liability of the Government on account of BSNL pensioners limited to 60% of the receipts by the Government from BSNL was duly satisfied. This issue was raised even by Department of expenditure in their letter to DOT seeking clarifications on a few points which they considered relevant while examining the proposal on the subject received from Department of Telecommunication. It is also a fact that Department of Telecommunications replied all the queries including the above to the Department of

Expenditure. In fact, Department of Telecommunications, in their reply, had categorically confirmed that "It is pertinent to mention that 60% cumulative receipt of revenue under specified heads is still higher than the total pension paid by the Government upto 31.03.2013." Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance) had accepted this reply from DOT and even cleared the proposal with the approval of Minister of Finance. Thus, there could not be any dispute on this issue at this point of time.

Unfortunately, there are a few great people around us who believe more in circulating stories with apparent intention to create panic rather making strong contribution to help the pensioners. They time and again raise the old issue of pension liability condition on 60:40 ratio between the Government and BSNL finding place in an administrative Order issued by Department of Telecommunication. This is not part of any sub-rule under Rule 37A of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications had even issued clarifications to allay the fears that this has nothing to do with the responsibility of the Government to pay pension to the absorbed BSNL pensioners and under sub-rule 21 of Rule 37A, it is the

Government which is responsible to make payment of pension even if BSNL fails to give the contribution. It is agreed that the decision on the pension liability order is a cabinet decision. But did Cabinet takes decisions without any proposal on the subjects before it? Certainly not. In this case, Department of Telecommunication must have proposed this and cabinet approved it. This does not mean that the cabinet decisions cannot be amended, abrogated. The Cabinet can do that also if any proposal comes before it from the concerned Ministry. In fact giving undue stress on this issue and thus creating confusion, at a time when the draft cabinet note is under finalization, is to indirectly or directly help the administration to sit over the file. This is what is happening in the present case also.

Some people are hoping that the BSNL Unions would be helpful in pushing through the present case of pension revision with revised fitment benefit due to merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% in place of 68.8% as ordered earlier. But we do not find any big push from their side. When such an opinion is passed, we understand the responsibility to substantiate that. This can be done subsequently, if required. At this moment, we must concentrate to get the case moved forward. It is still having a long journey to finish before it reaches Cabinet Secretariat. We also know that the present proposal will end its journey after Cabinet approves the same, but our journey will continue even thereafter since the entire matter had a wrong start which would need some operations to get the dues in proper shape.



LET US EXTEND OUR HELP TO A HUMANITARIAN CAUSE



As all of us know that a massive earthquake on last 25th April completely devastated entire Nepal and parts of north India – especially border areas of Bihar and UP. Several thousands of people have lost their lives and scores of people are still not traceable. The number of injured is so high that the authorities are not able to arrange proper treatment for them. It may take decades to restore everything

back to its normal shape. The affected people are still hungry, thirsty and without any shelter. Entire Nepal is desperately crying for help. Such human tragedies are very rare in history and as fellow human beings we must stand by the side of our brothers and sisters in Nepal and those in the affected areas of our northern states at this time of distress.

We are proud that our Prime Minister was first to respond to the crisis and took no time to send NDRF and other teams for rescue and relief operations. Tons of relief materials including food, drinking water, medicines, tents, blankets etc have been dispatched and still being distributed. The entire world has acknowledged India as the leader in humanitarian works. In this hour of crisis, it is our bounden duty to assist the Government in the ongoing rescue and relief operations for a humanitarian cause.

We know that as elders and pensioners, we have got some limitations. But at the time of such crisis of highest magnitude, overlooking all our constraints, let us try to contribute the maximum we can. We therefore call upon every one of us to liberally donate to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Contributions towards PMNRF can be made to: Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi 110001 in cash and through postal order, cheque or demand draft drawn in favour of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Please mention your complete postal address with PIN code to enable you to get the receipt from the PMO. The contribution to PMNRF is fully exempted from Income Tax under section 80G of IT Act.

We shall request to all those responding to this call to send us by e-mail their names, address, contact numbers and the amount so contributed to prepare a consolidated record.

REVISED IDA ORDERS ISSUED

REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2015: Department of Public Enterprises has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2015 from 100.3% to 100.5% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 vide its No. W-02/0002/2014-DPE(WC)-GL-IV/15 dated 06.04.2015. *[In order to read the Orders, please view the posting dated 08.04.2015 in this website]*

REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2015: Department of Public Enterprises has also issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2015 from 238% to 238.5% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997 vide its No. W-02/0004/2014-DPE(WC)-GL-VI/15 dated 06.04.2015. *[In order to read the Orders, please view the posting dated 08.04.2015 in this website]*

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, PG & PENSIONS TO INFORM NO PROGRESS IN DOT IN THE MATTER OF FINALIZATION OF DISCIPLINARY CASE PENDING AGAINST SHRI BUDHESWAR MISTRY, RETD DE, HAZARIBAGH, and BSNL JHARKHAND CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA has since written a letter, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/15 dated 29.04.2015, to the Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms, PG & Pensions, Government of India informing no progress at the end of Department of Telecommunication despite his taking up the matter of Inordinate delay in finalization of a

disciplinary case pending against Shri Budheswar Mistry, Retired DE, Hazaribagh, BSNL Jharkhand Circle with Secretary, Department of Telecommunications. [Posting dated 30.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASES OF NON-RELEASE OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT TO S/SHRI C A PATEL, RETD DE AND R DAYAL, RETD SDE OF GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE DESPITE ISSUE OF FINAL ORDERS ON DISCIPLINARY CASES. WRITES TO CMD, BSNL TO INTERVENE AND ADVISE CGMT, GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE ACCORDINGLY: AIBSNLREA has since taken up the above two cases of non-payment of leave encashment despite issue of final orders on pending disciplinary cases against the above named retired Officers. AIBSNLREA requests CMD, BSNL “to kindly intervene in the matter and advise Gujarat Telecom Circle to immediately release the payment of their leave encashment”. [Posting dated 24.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE TO ELDERS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, AIBSNLREA WRITES TO HIM STATING THAT THE OFFICERS IN DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION ARE NOT BACKING HIS GOVERNMENT’S RESOLVE TO ENSURING THAT ELDERS’ GOLDEN YEARS ARE SPENT HAPPILY, PEACEFULLY AND MEANINGFULLY – CITES THE CASE OF NON-FINALISATION OF THE CABINET NOTE TO ALLOW REVISION OF PENSION TO THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BEFORE 10.06.2013: Prime Minister of India in his Message dated 31st March 2015 to the elders, while highlighting some of the measures initiated by his Government, conveyed that “My Government is thus committed to ensuring that your golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully.” His Message further says that “Thus it is the nation’s responsibility to look after you.” AIBSNLREA has now written to him stating that ‘We the ex-employees of Department of Telecommunication and absorbed in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited almost 15 years back, after our retirement are not being allowed to live “happily, peacefully and meaningfully” due to indifferent and callous attitude of the Officers in Department of Telecommunications. We can cite many cases to prove our total dissatisfaction with the system. As a result, we are spending our days with total frustration and under acute tension’. AIBSNLREA cites the case of non-finalization of the Cabinet Note to allow revision of pension of the absorbed BSNL employees (pensioners) who retired before 10.06.2013. The Association further seeks his personal intervention in the matter “so that we get our dues and also our days are truly spent ‘happily, peacefully and meaningfully’.” [Posting dated 20.04.2015 in this website may be viewed to read the PM’s Message and AIBSNLREA’s letter](#)

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP WITH MEMBER (SERVICES) THE CASE OF NON-ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE FOR PERMANENT ABSORPTION IN BSNL OF SHRI S S YADAV, RETD JTO, MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA has since taken up the above issue with Member (Services), Telecom Commission since DOT is yet to take appropriate action to pave the way for issue of Presidential Directive for permanent absorption of Shri Yadav, Retd JTO of Maharashtra Telecom Circle. The Association has further requested for intervention of Member (Services) in

the matter so that expeditious action is taken by the SNG Section of DOT to issue the necessary orders in the matter as requested by SR Branch of BSNL Corporate Office". [Posting dated 19.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

AIBSNLREA SUBMITS ADDITIONAL ISSUE OF GRANTING NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO COMPLETE FULL YEAR'S OF SERVICE ON THE DATE OF THEIR RETIREMENT BUT DENIED THE ANNUAL INCREMENT SINCE THE DATE OF THEIR INCREMENT FALLS ON NEXT DAY OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH:

AIBSNLREA has written to 7th Central Pay Commission that "There are many pensioners who even after completing one full year's complete service on the last day of their service do not get the increment since the date of their annual increment falls on the next day. Just because they retire before the day of receiving the annual increment, even after completing one full year's service, they receive lesser pension and other benefits compared to those who retire after receiving the next increment. Thus an anomalous situation is created in such cases". Citing a Notification issued by Tamilnadu State Government granting notional increment in such cases, AIBSNLREA urges Pay Commission to recommend to allow notional increment in the similar cases for the Central Government Employees also. [Posting dated 08.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DOP&PW ON NON-COMPLIANCE OF ITS ADVICE TO DOT TO EXAMINE OUR REPRESENTATION REGARDING DOT'S DECISION TO PUT THE BURDEN OF PENSION LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF DOT EMPLOYEES RETIRED PRIOR TO 1.10.2000 ON BSNL:

AIBSNLREA had protested against the decision of DOT to put the burden of pension liability in respect of the DOT Employees retired prior to 1.10.2000 on BSNL [View posting dated 30.07.2014 in this website to read the letter]. Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had advised DOT to examine our representation and inform this Association of the action taken on the issue. DOT was also advised to intimate DOP&PW of the action taken in the matter [View posting dated 20.10.2014 in this website to read the DOP&PW's letter]. Since DOT has so far not send any information to this Association about the action taken on its representation, AIBSNLREA has now drawn the attention of DOP&PW on the matter and requested them to intervene. [Posting dated 07.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

NON-RESPONSE TO AP TELECOM CIRCLE'S REQUEST TO RELAX THE CONDITION OF NABH ACCREDITATION FOR EMPANEL OF HOSPITALS UNDER BSNL MRS AS HAS BEEN DONE IN CASE OF TAMILNADU CIRCLE:

AIBSNLREA writes to Shri Anupam Srivastava, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited on the above issue and says that "... Other than Hyderabad, NABH accredited Hospitals are NOT available at SSA level so as to empanel the hospitals. As a result, the BSNL employees – specially the retired employees at their old age are facing the brunt. The employees from far-away places in the SSAs cannot always be shifted to Hyderabad – especially under emergency condition for taking in-patient treatment in empanelled hospitals". The Association further request him "to kindly intervene in the matter and get the necessary orders issued relaxing the condition of NABH accreditation for empanelment under BSNL MRS for AP Circle to mitigate the hardships faced by the BSNL

employees residing in the SSAs outside". [Posting dated 07.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

ACTION ON REPRESENTATIONS OF AIBSNLREA

BSNL (SR SECTION) REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA'S LETTER DATED 18.04.2014 TO MEMBER (SERVICES) WITH COPY ENDORSED TO SR. GM(SR), BSNL IN THE MATTER OF NON-SETTLEMENT OF PERMANENT ABSORPTION CASE OF SHRI S S YADAV, RETD JTO, NAGPUR (MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE): AIBSNLREA had taken up non-settlement of permanent absorption case of Shri S S Yadav, Retired JTO, Nagpur of Maharashtra Circle in BSNL with Member (Services), Telecom Commission with copy endorsed to Sr. GM (SR), BSNL vide its letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/12 dated 18.04.2015 [View posting dated 19.04.2015] in this website for further details]. SR Section of BSNL has now responded to the letter and intimated that DOT had already conveyed approval for issue of individual PO in respect of Shri Yadav vide its letter No. 29-1/2006-SNG/Vol.III dated 16.03.2015 duly endorsed to CGMT, MH Circle for further action." [Posting dated 27.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the BSNL and DOT's letter.](#)

ECONOMIC OFFENCE WING OF DELHI POLICE FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S COMPLAINT ORIGINALLY MADE TO CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ABOUT THE RACKERS OPERATING TO DUPE THE UNSUSPECTING RETIRED BSNL OFFICERS TO DY. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, SOUTH WEST DISTRICT, DELHI: Economic Offence Wing of Delhi Police has since forwarded, vide their No. 2/07-08 COMPLT.BR/DCP/EOW dated 21.04.2015, AIBSNLREA's complaint originally made to the Central Bureau of Investigation against a racket operating to dupe the unsuspecting retired BSNL Officers to Dy. Commissioner of Police, South West District, Delhi for 'necessary action and direct disposal'. AIBSNLREA had received complaints from its Palakkad Branch and couple of other retired BSNL Executives. Earlier developments on the issue were posted in this website on 10.02.2015 and 17.04.2015. [Posting dated 26.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the EOW letter.](#)

DOP&PW ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION DATED 12/03/2015 ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA AND COPY ENDORSED TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR (PP) ON REMOVAL OF ANOMALY IN PENSION OF THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.07.2001 AND FORWARDS IT TO DOT TO EXAMINE THE ISSUES: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has acknowledged the receipt of AIBSNLREA's representation dated 12.03.2015 addressed to Prime Minister of India and copy endorsed to Minister of State for (PP) on the above mentioned issue [View posting dated 13.03.2015 in this website for further details]. DoP&PW has also forwarded the said representation to Department of Telecommunication to examine the issues. The Association, in their representation, had requested personal intervention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

in resolving the issue citing earlier decisions of the Government to resolve identical cases of some PSU/Government employees. [Posting dated 17.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the DOP&PW letter.](#)

CYBER CRIME INVESTIGATION CELL OF CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S LETTER DATED 09.02.2015 COMPLAINING ABOUT THE RACKETS OPERATING TO DUPE THE UNSUSPECTING RETIRED BSNL OFFICERS: Cyber Crime Investigation Cell of Central Bureau of Investigation has responded to AIBSNLREA's letter dated 09.02.2015 requesting CBI to investigate and arrest the people behind the racket who are attempting to dupe the unsuspecting retired BSNL Officers by offering them to pay stated unreleased pending amount out of their Provident Fund [View posting dated 10.02.2015 in this website for further details]. Cyber Crime Investigation Cell has forwarded AIBSNLREA's letter to Dy. Commissioner of Police, Economic Offence Wing, New Delhi for necessary action at its end. [Posting dated 17.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the CBI's letter.](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

DEPARTMENT OF PENSION & PENSIONERS' WELFARE ISSUES ORDERS ALLOWING ROUNDING OFF OF A FRACTION OF A RUPEE TO THE NEXT HIGHER RUPEE IN REGULATION OF ADDITIONAL PENSION: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 38/8/15-P&PW(A) dated 16.04.2015, has issued an Order stating that "... The amount of additional pension as finally calculated may be rounded off to the next higher rupee". It also orders that "In cases where pension/family pension of old pensioners has been fixed/revised without rounding off the additional pension, in those cases also, the additional pension be rounded off to the next higher rupee". It may be recalled that it was AIBSNLREA which alone strongly took up the matter with BSNL and then with DOT at the time of revision of pension of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners in 2011 following revision of IDA pay scales for the serving BSNL employees w.e.f. 1.1.2007. In this connection, the posting dated 03.06.2011 in this website may be viewed. [Posting dated 24.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the DOP&PW OM.](#)

BSNL ISSUES ORDER CLARIFYING THAT REIMBURSEMENT OF ALL DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AS RESTRICTED UNDER CGHS/CS(MA) RULES SHALL ALSO BE RESTRICTED UNDER BSNLMRS: BSNL Corporate Office, vide its Office Order No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-6/14 dated 17.04.2015, has issued a clarification stating that under outdoor medical expenditure reimbursement of all dietary supplements including inadmissible foods, tonics, toiletries and medicines as restricted under CGHS/CS(MA) Rules shall also be restricted under BSNLMRS. BSNL Order further says that reimbursement of treatments undertaken from paramedical staff should also be on the advice of the qualified registered medical practitioners only. [Posting dated 18.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the BSNL Order.](#)

DEPARTMENT OF PENSION & PENSIONERS' WELFARE REQUESTS ALL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS TO ASSIST IN LINKING AADHAR NUMBERS OF THE PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS TO THEIR PENSION PAYMENT ORDERS AND PENSION ACCOUNTS: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 1/19/2014-P&PW(E) dated 01.04.2015, has requested all pensioners' Associations to assist the Government to get the Aadhar Number of the pensioners/family pensioners linked to their Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) and Pension Accounts. DOP&PW has said that "A pensioner or family pensioner who wants to benefit from this (Aadhar based digital certificate) facility needs to get his/her Aadhar number linked to his/her Pension Payment Order (PPO) number and pension account. This will also speed up commencement of family pension in the event of death of pensioner or spouse." DOP&PW has further advised the pensioners/family pensioners to visit the nearest NIC centers for the purpose. In this regard, posting dated 02.04.2015 on the same issue in this website may also be visited. [Posting dated 14.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the DOP&PW letter.](#)

PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS DESIROUS OF AVAILING THE BENEFIT OF SUBMISSION OF AADHAR BASED LIFE CERTIFICATE TO GET THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS REGISTERED FOR AADHAR AND FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO THE PENSION DISBURSING AUTHORITY: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 1/19/2014-P&PW(E) dated 31.03.2015, has advised all pensioners and family pensioners to get themselves and their family members enrolled for Aadhar and furnish this information to the concerned Pension Disbursing Authority. This is to avoid inconvenience at the time of submission of newly introduced Aadhar based digital life certificate in the month of November. [Posting dated 02.04.2015 in this website be viewed to read the DOP&PW letter.](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH HELD: A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, West Bengal State Branch was held at CTO Building, Kolkata on 13th April, 2015 with a mammoth gathering of more than 240 members. After a brief cultural Program, the deliberation started with Shri S.K.Maitra, President in the chair. The House paid its tribute to the departed members and Comrade S.K.Vyas---one of the pioneers of Central Govt. employees' movement. State Secretary Shri S.R.Palit placed his brief report containing the news and activities of the State Body. In his report he said that the life membership of the Branch has crossed over 500. He appealed to the members not to heed to the rumours regarding un-certainty of BSNL Pension in future since this is a settled issue. Shri Tarit Sengupta, Asst. State Secretary apprised the house about the organizational activities of the Association. Shri S.Basu, General Secretary and the Principal Speaker of the day, elaborately discussed the 78.2% merger issue right from its origin and also various problems cropped up in the DOT for its implementation. He also mentioned the Association's relentless effort from the very beginning to achieve justice and regretted the role-played by some other Pensioners' Associations who always believe in negativity. Shri Basu stated that there is no threat perception for BSNL Pensioners even in future and asked them not to panic. He stated that the Orders dated 15.06.2006 on pension liability is an administrative order and not part of Rule 37-A. It is purely an arrangement between DoT and BSNL. This is not a permanent arrangement and may change in future if the DoT decides

so. But in no case, this takes away the responsibility from the Government to pay pension to the absorbed BSNL pensioners. He also discussed about the expectations from VII CPC in regard to the pensioners' issues, Medical facilities to BSNL pensioners and many other issues. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Shri Sudhir Roy, Vice President of the State Body.*[In order to view the photographs of the meeting, posting dated 16.04.2015 in the 'West Bengal' section of State News page of this website may be viewed]*

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, BAREILLY BRANCH: Bareilly Branch of AIBSNLREA (UP State) held a General Body meeting on 11.04.2015. Shri R S Arora, UP State Secretary attended the meeting and addressed the members. The House was apprised of the efforts being taken to resolve various issues at the Headquarters level. S/Shri A.C.Maheshwari Branch Secretary and Krishna Murari, Financial Secretary participated in the discussions.

STATEMENT OF CHQ QUOTA RECEIVED DURING APRIL 2015

Erode (Tamilnadu) Branch has deposited Rupees one thousand (Rs 1000.00) only in cash on 10.04.2015 as quota for five additional life members.

Corrections:

(1) The statement of CHQ quota received during December 2014, as published in December 2014 issue of e-journal, has a wrong entry. It was Palakkad (Kerala State) Branch which deposited Rupees Six hundred (Rs 600.00) only as quota and not Ambala (Haryana State) Branch as wrongly mentioned.

(2) The statement of CHQ quota received during February 2015, as published in February 2015 issue of e-journal, has a wrong entry. It was Kanpur (UP State) Branch which deposited Rupees One thousand two hundred (Rs 1200.00) only as quota and not Allahabad (UP State) Branch as wrongly mentioned.

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