



## **FOREWORD**

Some members had been suggesting for some time past to publish and circulate one monthly house journal on behalf of AIBSNLREA. However, because of limited developments taking place and the huge cost and man power involved in the process, the publication of a regular journal was not found justifiable. Moreover, all important developments are regularly appearing in our website. Thus the House journal would have been just a compilation of all those news at one place. Anyhow, after a careful thinking on the issue, we have now decided to bring out an e-journal every month instead of going for printed journal. Those who intend to have hard copies of the same, can take print-outs and preserve them. Otherwise, these will be available in its original form in a special page called "e-journal". This journal is named as "Second Innings" and we hope to add new features to it in the coming months.

– Editor.

*Editorial*

### **DEAD END?**

The DoT's proposal for extending the benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA for the purpose of fixation of basic pension of all those who retired before 10.06.2013 seems to have reached a dead end. Though DoT could manage to get the clearance to its proposal from Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, it could not pass the test of scrutiny by Department of Expenditure under Ministry of Finance. DoT has not been able to send any convincing reply to the queries as raised by the Department of Expenditure. Perhaps, even the Internal Finance of Department of Telecommunication is having doubts whether the reply will satisfy the Department of Expenditure at all. The present problem started with some genius leaders spearheading an aggressive campaign to call the Presidential Directive dated 10.06.2013 issued by DOT as if it was for extending "notional" benefit. They started an open research work extensively quoting rules and orders to prove their point. They also started interaction with Department and thanked for the unique Order issued by it. In DoT, there are some Officers who also feel that God has given them super intelligence and they grabbed the opportunity and drafted a proposal to give all the pensioners retired before 10.06.2013 notional benefit of DPE's OM dated 02.04.2009 for extension of merger of 78.2% DA for pay fixation w.e.f. 1.1.2007. Thus they unnecessarily complicated the issue.

Our Association had been telling all these days that the question terming the Orders as "notional" does not arise. The DPE OM dated 26.11.2008 revising the IDA pay scales of the Executives/Supervisors of CPSEs with merger of 68.8% DA for fixation benefit was a regular pay revision order. Similarly, the DPE OM dated 02.04.2009 modifying its earlier OM to replace merger of 68.8% DA with 78.2% DA and few more was also a regular Order. There was no reason that one should call those Orders or even the Presidential Directive dated 10.06.2013 as notional.

No doubts that afterwards, a few big pundits started speaking opposite to their earlier stand. The present situation is similar to the one when all started advocating for pension revision of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners on CDA pay scale instead of IDA scales. At that time also, this Association alone held its ground that pension revision has only to be on IDA pay scale. Afterwards, many of these pundits also changed their track. Finally, the pension revision was allowed only in the IDA scale.

Though the over enthusiastic researchers have contributed their might to the present stalemate, we will have to strive hard to come out from this dead end.

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**CAMPAIGN FOR INDIVIDUAL APPEAL TO HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA URGING HIM TO RESOLVE THE LONG PENDING ISSUE OF RE-FIXATION OF BASIC PAY/PENSION WITH THE BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% IDA**

AIBSNLREA has launched a campaign for individual appeal to be made to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India urging him to resolve the long pending issue of re-fixation of basic pension with the benefit of 78.2% IDA. The Association has requested all the BSNL Pensioners in general and members of this Association in particular who retired before 1.1.2007 and between 1.1.2007 and 09.06.2013 to send the personal appeal to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India with a copy endorsed to Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications & IT, Law & Justice requesting his personal intervention in resolving the re-fixation of their basic pension with the benefit of merger 78.2% IDA. The draft appeals for these two distinct categories of pensioners have also been circulated. The pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners are to get their pension re-fixed with 78.2% IDA with effect from 01.01.2007. But those who retired between 1.1.2007 and 09.06.2013 are eligible to get their basic pay fixed with 78.2% IDA in revised IDA pay scale w.e.f. 01.01.2007 which ensures re-fixation of their basic pension on the date of their retirement. AIBSNLREA has further requested to send the appeals directly by ordinary post to the Hon'ble PM and Minister of Communications at the given address on 03.06.2014. However, those who cannot send this on 03.06.2014 may send the same within next couple of days. *To view the draft appeals, posting dated 29.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may be viewed.*

**IMPORTANT ORDERS**

- (1) DOT ISSUES ORDERS FOR PAYMENT OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS BY GOVERNMENT FOR THE MTNL ABSORBED EMPLOYEES WITH EFFECT FROM 1.10.2000:** Following amendment of sub-rule 22, 23 and 24 of Rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 by DoP&PW vide GSR 138(E) dated 03.03.2014 (uploaded in this website on 09.03.2014) allowing MTNL absorbed employees also to receive pensionary benefits from the Government at par with BSNL absorbed employees, the Department of Telecommunication has since issued an Order vide its No. 42-4/2012-Pen(T) dated 28.04.2014. The main features of the Order are: (1) Pensionary benefits shall be restricted to the amount arrived at by calculating pensionary benefits of MTNL absorbed employees based upon the

equivalent pay scales of similarly placed employees of BSNL. As most of the pay scales in MTNL are higher than that of BSNL, the additional liability arising from the same shall be borne by MTNL by making advance payment to Government. (2) The arrangement shall continue till next wage revision by which time MTNL and BSNL achieve pay scale parity by bringing down the pay scale of MTNL to the level of BSNL pay scales. *To view the all important DoT Order on the issue, the posting dated 14.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may be viewed.*

- (2) SIMPLIFICATION OF PROCEDURE FOR PAYMENT OF PENSION IN RESPECT OF FRESHLY RETIRED EMPLOYEES:** Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has since issued an order modifying its earlier procedure to submit an undertaking "to refund or make good any amount to which he is not entitled" by the new pensioners to the authorized Banks disbursing their pension for the first occasion. The Pensioners receiving the pension will no longer be required to submit the same to the Banks. Now onwards, the undertaking in a prescribed format will be collected from the retiring employees along with their Pension Papers and finally sent to the Bank along with their PPOs to avoid delay. *To view the DoP&PW Order on the issue, the posting dated 11.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may be viewed.*

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#### ISSUES TAKEN UP

- (1) On extension of benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA for re-fixation of basic pension**

AIBSNLREA writes to Shri Narendra Modi welcoming him on his assuming the office of the Prime Minister of India and simultaneously requesting his kind intervention in resolving the issue of extension of benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA for fixation of basic pension of absorbed BSNL Pensioners. Copy of the letter has been endorsed to Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Communications & IT, Law & Justice. *To know further details, posting dated 28.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may please be viewed.*

- (2) On switching over from BSNLMRS to CGHS**

With reference to the DoT Order conveying the Government's decision extending the CGHS facility to the retired BSNL employees who are in receipt of Central Civil Pension and rendered service in DOT/BSNL and further Order issued by BSNL endorsing the same, AIBSNLREA has requested CMD, BSNL to issue a detailed order indicating the terms and conditions for switching over. *To know further details, posting dated 25.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may please be viewed.*

- (3) On DOP&PW'S instructions to fix timeline for redressal of grievances**

Following issue of instructions to all Ministries/Department on the above issue, AIBSNLREA has since written a letter to Secretary, Department of Telecommunication requesting to send the copy of the instructions issued by DoP&PW vide its No. 55/18/2914-P&PW(C) dated 28.03.2014 to all its subordinate organizations including BSNL and MTNL. It also writes "we shall request you to kindly send the copy of the said instructions as issued by DoP&PW to all subordinate organizations including BSNL for strict compliance. It is also requested to advise

BSNL to notify one nodal officer in Corporate Office and also in Circle Offices to look into the grievances of the absorbed BSNL pensioners". *To read the letter, posting dated 03.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may please be viewed.*

## **ACTIVITY REPORT OF BRANCHES**

**Chandigarh Branch:** Chandigarh Branch of AIBSNLREA conducted a General Body Meeting on Saturday, May 24, 2014 in the Canteen of General Post Office, Sector-17, Chandigarh to discuss various issues concerning the members.

**Gujarat State Branch:** Gujarat State Branch of AIBSNLREA held its Annual General Body meeting on May 15, 2014 at Ahmedabad Medical Association Hall, Ashram Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad. 200 members attended the meeting. *For detailed report, the posting dated 19.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may be viewed.*

**Bareilly Branch:** Bareilly Branch (UP State) held a General Body meeting on 10.05.2014. This was addressed by Shri R S Arora, UP State Secretary.

**Udaipur Branch:** Udaipur Branch (Rajasthan state) held its Bi-monthly General Body meeting on 10.05.2014 at Hotel Garden Palace, Uadipur. *To know further details, the posting dated 13.05.2014 in the website of AIBSNLREA may please be viewed.*

## **MAHARSHTRA STATE BRANCH NOW LEADS THE RACE**

Maharashtra State Branch of AIBSNLREA, comprising of seven branches, now tops the list of life members with 528 registered life members pushing Gujarat State Branch having 500 life members to second position. The Branch wise life membership strength of the Branches in Maharashtra State Branch is as follows: Akola – 21, Amravati – 37, East Vidarbha (Nagpur) – 297, Kolhapur – 104, Mumbai – 14, Parbhani - 09, Pune – 46.

## **CHQ QUOTA**

- **Pune Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees nine thousand (Rs 9000.00) only as the CHQ quota for life membership fee for 45 life members in our S/B Account in Syndicate Bank on 06.05.2014.**
- **Indore Branch (Madhya Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees One thousand four hundred (Rs 1400.00) only as the CHQ quota for life membership fee for additional seven new members in our Bank Account with Karur and Vysya Bank on 17.05.2014.**
- **Bareilly Branch (Uttar Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs 600.00) only as the CHQ quota for life membership fee for additional three new members in our Bank Account with Syndicate Bank on 30.05.2014.**

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