



Editorial

DRAFT CABINET NOTE ON PENSION REVISION

We had already made it ample clear that the delay in clearance of draft Cabinet Note for revision of pension of pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners and also for those who retired between 01.01.2007 and 09.06.2013 with revised fitment benefit by allowing effective merger of 78.2% IDA is not due to the stated repeated queries being made by Internal Finance of DOT in the matter of restriction on annual pension liability of the Government on account of BSNL pensioners limited to 60% of the receipts by the Government from BSNL. In our last month's editorial on the same issue, we have quoted from a reply that was sent by DOT to DOE asserting 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" to make our point home and also to the discomfort of those who had been propagating otherwise with their sole intention to create confusion and panic among the BSNL pensioners.

Now we further add that the delay in finalization and circulation of draft cabinet note is due to some other reason and not the one that we discussed earlier. The point on which Internal Finance is now seeking clarifications from Establishment Branch are all about the proposal to allow the benefit of enhanced

Gratuity, Commuted Value of Pension and Leave Encashment to those pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 which has since been included in the present draft cabinet note. It will not be out of point to mention here that this part of the draft cabinet note was very much a part of the original proposal for revision of pension which was sent to DOP&PW/DOE last year for their approval. However, DOE did not agree to this part of the proposal observing that "... "In so far as the proposal for revision of gratuity and leave encashment for BSNL employees retired between 1.1.2007 and 09.06.2013 based on notional pay and payment of arrears thereof is concerned, DOPPW have considered that since IDA pensioners do not get any actual benefit of increase in pay/pension during the period between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013, they would not get increase in the amount of DCRG and commutation of pension on this account. Accordingly this proposal is not agreed to". Thus, it is evident from the above observation made by DOE that terming of the revised fitment benefit case with 78.2% IDA as "notional" did invite this problem.

While welcoming the realization in DOT that the BSNL pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 can no way be denied the benefit of enhanced gratuity, commutation of pension and

encashment of leave and their arrears thereof, the sudden decision to include this particular issue in the draft cabinet note now under finalization without reversing its own wrong stand to term the extension of the benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA as “notional” or without effectively countering the stand taken by DOP&PW and DOE to deny the said benefit is nothing but a controversial or half-hearted one. The Internal Finance, in this case, would naturally like to go by the decision of the Ministry of Finance and may not concur with this proposal as being made out now by Establishment Branch of DOT. If the DOT is really serious in the matter, they must reverse their earlier stand of terming the benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA as “notional”. Otherwise, the proposal will not find acceptance with DOT’s own Internal Finance and thereafter with DOP&PW and Department of Expenditure when the draft cabinet note is received by them to offer their comments. Thus, the entire exercise will prove to be a futile one.

Further, we would not like to desist ourselves from questioning the wisdom of DOT in sending the original proposal more than a year back only to DOP&PW

and DOE and now, after getting their views, virtually not accepting them. When it was pre-decided that DOT would seek the nod of Cabinet to its proposal, they could have very well circulated a draft cabinet note based on their original proposal as was approved by its own Internal Finance, at that point of time itself to all the concerned Ministries including DOP&PW and DOE to get their views. DOT would have certainly got the same views from DOP&PW and DOE which it has received now. Based on these, DOT could have sent the final Cabinet Note for approval and thus saved more than one year’s lost time.

Given the action taken by DOT from time to time in the above issue, it appears that it has no clue whatever how to move with the proposal and therefore moving around aimlessly delaying its final decision. Anyhow, the present controversy on inclusion of the proposal regarding payment of enhanced gratuity, leave encashment and commuted value of pension in the cabinet note is likely to be over soon which may see the draft cabinet note finalized and circulated to all the concerned Ministries. This is what is necessary for now.



INCOME TAX RETURN FORMS REVISED

Government has modified the Income Tax Return Forms which are to be used to submit tax returns for the assessment year 2015-16 and onwards. In the new tax forms, details of bank accounts and Passport Number are to be disclosed. The revised forms are yet to be uploaded in Income Tax department website. With the e-filing return forms expected to be released only by the third week of June, the government has also extended the last date for filing of returns to 31.8.2015 from 31.7.2015.

HEALTHCARE SCHEME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS BEING LAUNCHED

A report now says that 'the government is set to launch a healthcare scheme for senior citizens as part of its social security initiative. Sources said the scheme would be funded through unclaimed deposits available with the government for which the law has already been amended as part of the budget exercise. The amendment will enable the government to tap a "couple of thousand crores" for the healthcare scheme. "We will work out a threshold and people beyond that would be covered by the healthcare scheme," a source said. In the absence of access to government medical facilities, healthcare is seen as a crucial missing link for senior citizens who have to rely on family members to take care of them in old age.' AIBSNLREA had earlier reported that the Government has formed a Committee under Shri H R Khan, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to assess the amount of unclaimed deposits in PPF and Post Office Savings Schemes and also suggest steps for their utilization for the benefits of Senior Citizens. Other members of the Committee are Secretary, Department of Posts, Joint Secretary (Ministry of Law), Joint Secretary (Budget Division, Ministry of Finance), Deputy Managing Director, State Bank of India and Executive Director, Punjab National Bank. The Committee was to submit its report by 31.12.2014. As it appears now, the scheme will benefit only those senior citizens who are below certain financial limit to be fixed by the Government.

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

AIBSNLREA had earlier made an appeal, through this website, to all the BSNL pensioners to contribute as per their might to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to assist the Government in its massive relief operations in the earth quake devastated Nepal and some parts of North India. The Association also requested all the contributors to this special cause to send their names and other details by e-mail for our record. We have so far received information from the following few pensioners only:-

Sl No	Name	Address	Amount
01	R R Balasubramanian, Retd. SDE, TN Circle Office.	10/41, Sowrashtanagar 7 th Cross St., Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600094 <i>Contact No. 9486100613</i>	Rs. 1000.00 Sent by Net banking on 06.05.2015
02	Dev Raj Raina Retd. DE, Jammu.	No. 314/JMC-1042, Jawahar Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu-180002 (Jammu & Kashmir), India. Contact No. 9419197366, 9527164673	Rs. 5000.00 Sent by Net banking
03	Santimay Basu Retd. ADG, BSNL C.O.	Flat No.111 New Ashiana Apartments, Plot-10, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075. <i>Contact No. 9868092995</i>	Rs. 5000.00 Sent by Cheque on 14.05.2015
04	Mukunda Debnath Retd. DE, Agartala, Tripura	Vijay Sai Lumbini Apts, Flat no C-302, Near Govt. School, Belthur Ist Main Road, Kadugodi, P.O. Bangalore 560067, Karnataka. <i>Contact no: 09480389033</i>	Rs. 2000.00 Sent by Cheque on 16.05.2015

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO MEMBER (SERVICES) REQUESTING EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE OF SHRI S N GAJBE, RETD. SDE, MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE FOR REGULARISATION OF SUSPENSION PERIOD AND QUASHING OF HIS ORDER FOR COMPULSORY RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE:

AIBSNLREA has since written to Member (Services), Telecom Commission, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/20 dated 18.05.2015, on the issue of inordinate delay in settlement of “regularization of suspension period” and “quashing of Order for compulsory retirement from service” case of Shri S N Gajbe, Retd. SDE, Maharashtra Telecom Circle. The Association has urged that “..... we would earnestly request you to kindly intervene in the matter so that the undue long sufferings of Shri S N Gajbe, Retd SDE, Chandrapur SSA, Maharashtra Telecom Circle for no fault on his part come to an end”. [\[View posting dated 19.05.2015 in this website to read the letter.\]](#)

REDRESSAL OF A GENUINE GRIEVANCE OF THE PENSIONERS OF NOT BEING ALLOWED TO EARN THE ANNUAL INCREMENT EVEN THOUGH COMPLETING ONE FULL YEAR’S SERVICE ON THE DATE OF THEIR RETIREMENT – AIBSNLREA REQUEST DOP&T TO GRANT ONE NOTIONAL INCREMENT:

AIBSNLREA had earlier taken up the above issue with the Seventh Central Pay Commission through its Supplementary Memorandum dated 08.04.2015 [View posting dated 08.04.2015 in this website for details]. Now the Association takes up the same issue with Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training since the matter is within the purview of DOP&T. However, the Pay Commission can also consider the issue while examining the memoranda submitted by different organizations. [\[View posting dated 05.05.2015 in this website to read the letter.\]](#)

REVISION OF SENIORITY LISTS NO. 1 TO 17 OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF PARA 206 OF P&T MANUAL VOLUME IV AS PER JUDGMENT DATED 21.01.2015 BY THE SUPREME COURT:

BSNL is in the process of revising the entire Seniority Lists No 1 to 17 of the TES Group B Officers based on the principle of Para 206 of P&T Manual Volume-IV which was once relied upon by Allahabad High Court for promotion and re-fixing seniority of S/Shri P N Lal and Brij Mohan and had also ordered accordingly. Thereafter, many similarly placed Officers moved to courts and were allowed similar benefits. However, the number of cases went on increasing since Department of Telecommunications did not apply the same principle for promotion and fixing seniority to those who were not the applicants in the cases. Now the Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 21.1.2015, while disposing of series of Civil Applications, has ordered constitution of a two member Expert Committee with Justice Shri K.Ramamoorthy, retired judge of High Court of Madras now residing in Delhi as its Chairman. The Expert Committee will suggest the way out for balancing the rights of the two groups of employees whose grievances are to be addressed with minimum disturbance in the matter of fixation of their seniority and allowing consequent promotions. The Supreme Court will consider the report of the Expert Committee and thereafter issue final orders. Though this Association is not a party in the case, there are many members whose interests are likely to be affected. Keeping this in view, AIBSNLREA has sent some suggestions, vide its letter No.

AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/17 dated 01.05.2015, to the Committee for consideration so as to balance the rights of the groups in the process of revising their seniority and allowing promotions so as to cause minimum disturbance". [\[View posting dated 03.05.2015 in this website to read the letter.\]](#)

EXTENSION OF CGHS FACILITIES TO RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES- FIXATION OF RATES OF CONTRIBUTION AND WARD ENTITLEMENT ETC: Referring to the decision taken in the 26th Meeting of SCOVA held on 03.02.2015 that Department of Telecommunication would send a proposal to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the matter of fixation of rates of contribution, ward entitlement etc for the retired BSNL employees desirous to opt for CGHS facilities, AIBSNLREA writes to Member (Services), Telecom Commission to intervene in the matter since the involved issues have not been resolved so far. The Association urged him "to kindly intervene so that all the connected issues for implementation of DOT's above referred Order dated 20.02.2014 is finalized at the earliest and the absorbed BSNL pensioners desirous to switch over to the CGHS can exercise their option after judging the conditionality associated with the scheme". [\[View posting dated 01.05.2015 in this website to read the letter.\]](#)

RESPONSE ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

7th CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF AIBSNLREA'S LETTER DATED 08.04.2015 SUBMITTING AN ADDITIONAL ISSUE REGARDING GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO COMPLETE FULL YEAR'S 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: Seventh Central Pay Commission has since acknowledged, vide its Acknowledgement id No. CPCL000579, receipt of AIBSNLREA's letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/11 dated 08.04.2015 [posting dated 08.04.2015 in this website may be viewed to read the letter] wherein an additional issue to grant notional increment for pensionary benefits to those who complete full year of service on the date of their retirement but denied the annual increment since the date of their increment falls on the next day of the following month was taken up. [To read the Acknowledgement Slip from VII CPC, posting dated 22.05.2015 in this website may be viewed.](#)

DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S LETTER DATED 24.04.2015 ON NON-RELEASE OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT TO S/SHRI C A PATEL, RETD. DE AND R DAYAL, RETD. SDE OF BSNL GUJARAT CIRCLE- FORWARDS THE LETTER TO CCA, GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE: Department of Telecommunication (TA Section), vide its letter No. 6-24/2012/TA-1/9/Gujarat/3028 & 3029 dated 11.05.1015 has forwarded AIBSNLREA's letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/14 dated 24.04.2015 [Posting dated 24.04.2015 in this website may be viewed to read the letter] on non-release of leave encashment to S/Shri C A Patel, Retd. DE and R Dayal, Retd. SDE of BSNL Gujarat Circle to the Controller of Communication Accounts, Gujarat Telecom Circle to examine the points as mentioned in the letter and to inform the action taken/status report to the Association as well as to the DOT. [To read the letter, posting dated 18.05.2015 in this website may be viewed.](#)

DARPG ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF REPRESENTATION BY AIBSNLREA ON NON-FINALIZATION OF CABINET NOTE TO EXTEND THE BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% DA FOR FITMENT IN PENSION AND PAY OF THE BSNL PENSIONERS AND FORWARDS IT TO DOT: Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, vide its No. DARPG/P/2015/02051 dated 21.04.2015, has acknowledged the receipt of AIBSNLREA's representation dated 28.03.2015 regarding non-finalization of a Cabinet Note to extend the benefit of merger of 78.2% DA for fitment benefit in pension and pay of the BSNL pensioners who retired before 1.1.2007 and also between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 respectively [view posting dated 30.03.2015 in this website to read the letter] and forwarded the same to the Department of Telecommunication to redress the grievance. *To read the DAPRG letter, posting dated 13.05.2015 in this website may be viewed.*

SECRETARY (PENSION), AGAIN WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) ON THE ISSUE OF INORDINATE DELAY IN FINALIZATION OF A DISCIPLINARY CASE AGAINST SHRI BUDHESWAR MISTRY, RETIRED DE, HAZARIBAGH, JHARKHAND CIRCLE AND ALSO WRITES FOR EARLY FINALIZATION OF THE CASE: In response to AIBSNLREA's second letter dated 29.04.2015 regarding inordinate delay in finalization of a disciplinary case against Shri Budheswar Mistry, Retired DE, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand Circle (view posting dated 30.04.2015 in this website for the letter), Secretary (Pension), while bringing the issue to his notice, has again written to Secretary (Telecom) emphasizing that "... it is in the best interest of both, the organization and the employees concerned, that the disciplinary case gets finalized early". In this regard postings dated 16.03.2015 and 25.03.2015 in this website may also be viewed for further details. *To read the letter from Secretary (Pension), posting dated 11.05.2015 in this website may be viewed.*

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, GUJARAT STATE BRANCH HELD: Gujarat State Branch of AIBSNLREA held its General Body Meeting on 25.05.2015 at Ahmedabad. 230 members attended the meeting and 24 new life members were enrolled during the meeting. Dr. Amit Agrawal and Dr Maharshi Bhatt graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. The meeting started by lighting of the lamp followed by prayers. The House first observed two minutes silence in memory of the recent earth quake victims and the departed pensioners and their family members. Thirty six senior members, who completed their 70 years of age, were honoured with presentation of bouquets and shawl. Then President Shri R.B.Goswami welcomed the Guests and the members. Both the Doctors gave an very useful presentation on orthopedic problems particularly about knee problems and replacement of joints with the help of slide show. They also cleared the doubts of the members. The State Secretary Shri. A.B.Patel informed the House about the latest position of the current issues like merger of 78.2% IDA with basic pension, Pension anomaly case, Fake Calls being received about PF etc. Assistant Finance Secretary Shri R.M.Nayi presented the account for the year 2014-15 which was passed by the House. Shri B.M.Bhavsar, Advisor then addressed the gathering. Thereafter, the Election for new office bearers for the next term was conducted. Shri P.B.Parmar, Rtd Principal G.M. (Finance) Gujarat Circle was elected as president. S/Shri A.B.Patel and M.T.Patel were elected as the State Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively. Shri A.N.Bhavsar gave the vote of thanks. The meeting was followed by a Dinner arranged in the same venue.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AMBALA BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: A general body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 4.5.2015 under the chairmanship of Shri P.C Chauhan, President of the Branch and was attended by 27 members. Shri J.C Gupta, Branch Secretary briefed the members about the various issues concerning the members. All the members expressed their great anguish over the abnormal delay in settlement of 78.2% pay fixation case in spite of change of Govt. at Centre, taking up the matter with Central Ministers, approval by DOPT and DOE for putting up the cabinet note for approval by the Government. Deptt of Telecom is delaying the Cabinet note on one pretext or the other. Members also requested to take up the matter with the Govt. for Pension revision at appropriate level. 3 new members joined the Association as life members taking the total strength of the Branch to 50. The meeting was followed by lunch. President thanked all the members.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AMARAVATI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: Amaravati Branch (Maharashtra State) of AIBSNLREA held a General Body Meeting on 03.05.2015 in the TRC Hall of Auto Exchange building under the president ship of Shri V P Agarwal. The meeting started by paying homage to the departed souls in Nepal earth-quake by observing 2 minutes' silence. Members expressed their concern due to inordinate delay in settlement of revision of pension with revised fitment benefit of merger of 50% D.A. effectively amounting to 78.2%. Branch Secretary Shri V G Dakhote informed the members about the present status. Two cases of attempt to dupe the unsuspecting retired BSNL officers by offering them to pay stated unrealized pending amount before retirement were reported in the Branch. The Secretary alerted all members to ignore such calls. Various other points such as restoration of medical allowance, income tax returns, renewal of medical cards etc. were discussed. The Branch Secretary replied the queries raised by the members. The house welcomed five new life members on their joining the Association. The meeting adjourned after vote of thanks.

DHANBAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS SECOND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: Dhanbad (Jharkhand State) Branch of AIBSNLREA held its second Biennial Conference on 26th April 2015 at Hotel Vishram Lodge, Hirapur, Dhanbad. The meeting was presided over by Shri P Choudhury, Retired DE, Giridih. After other regular deliberations, election of new office bearers for the next term was conducted. Shri P Singh, Retd DE (M/W), Dhanbad was elected as the President of the Branch. S/Shri R Y N Parmar, Retd DE(Extl), Dhanbad and N Chakraborty, Retd DE(Admn), Dhanbad were elected as the Branch Secretary and Branch Financial Secretary respectively.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF ALLAHABAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: Allahabad Branch (UP State) of AIBSNLREA held a General Body meeting on 25.04.2015. The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Shri R.S. Gupta, Branch President. 25 members of the Branch participated in the meeting. 24 new life members have joined the Association taking the total membership strength of the Branch to 38. Discussions on 78.2% merger issue and other related issues took place. S/Shri Rajendra Prasad, Branch Secretary, R.P. Mishra and Damodar Prasad Dwivedi, Financial Secretary addressed the house. State Secretary Shri R.S. Arora briefed the house on the issues like 78.2% IDA merger, pay anomaly cases, memorandum submitted to the Pay Commission by some associations. Before adjourning the meeting, spiritual discussion was held in which S/Shri R.P. Mishra, R.S. Arora and other members participated. Shri R S Arora, UP State Secretary had earlier addressed the Branch Executives of Kanpur Branch on 09.04.2015.

QUARTERLY GB MEETING OF LUCKNOW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: The quarterly General Body meeting of Lucknow Branch (UP State) of AIBSNLREA was held on 18.04.2015 in the Recreation Club at Kaiserbagh Telephone Exchange campus. The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Prasad, Branch President. 70 members were present in the meeting and 5 new Life Members

joined the Association. Before initiating the discussions, the members observed two minutes' silence to pay homage to the department souls of S/Shri R S Shukla, Retd. AGM, Alok Sinha, Rtd. DGM and R S Verma, Retd SDE. Then S/Shri S.P. Singh, Branch Secretary, Shri Radhey Shyam, Organizing Secretary and Ambika Singh, Financial Secretary addressed the members and apprised them with the latest developments on important issues.

QUARTERLY GB MEETING OF KOLHAPUR BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: Quarterly meeting of AIBSNLREA, Kolhapur Branch was held on 5th April 2015 in Telephone Bhavan Conference Hall with Shri L M Godi, President in the Chair. 56 members attended the meeting and 2 new members joined the Association. President welcomed the members. He also presented bouquets to the new members. Branch Secretary Shri D K Joshi informed the House about passing way of S/Shri R. Laxman, the common Man Cartoonist, MG Kulkarni, Ex. Member Services (Telecom Commission), C M Mudhol, Ex-DGM Finance, Kolhapur, Chimmalagi, Sr. Member of the Branch from Sangli, Govindrao Panasare, a Social & Union Leader of Kolhapur, Sadashivrao Mandalik, Ex- MP, Kolhapur, Former Home Minister of Maharashtra RR Patil, and S R Patil, Popular Ex-MLA Jaishingpur. All the Members observed 2 minutes' silence in memory of the departed personalities and the members. Then Secretary informed about the developments on pensioners' issues. Regarding 78.2% IDA merger issue, detailed picture was given to the members. He also reported on other issues like family pension to disabled children, court judgment on missed promotions due to delayed DPCs-, restoration of Medical Allowance by BSNL, delayed case of deferred option for Group-C absorbed employees, delay in settlement of Disciplinary cases, full Pension to Pre 2006 Pensioners with less than 33 Yrs. Service, 7th CPC, extension of CGHS facility to BSNL Retired employees etc. Queries raised by members were also discussed. Other members expressed their various Experiences. Asst. Secretary Shri P S Kulkarni dealt the Sr. Citizens' facilities, other tour programs undertaken and the proposed one. Then Guest Lecturer, Dr. Shivaji Pawar, a noted speaker on Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, delivered a very informative and pictorial life sketch of the Great Warrior of India. Then vote of thanks was given by Shri P S Kulkarni. He also informed the House that the lunch for the meeting has been sponsored by Shri J G Kulkarni, Rtd. DGM (F) and the new Member of the Branch.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING MAY 2015

Amravati Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees Four thousand three hundred (Rs 4300.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 14.05.2015 towards CHQ quota for nine (9) new life members and donation (Rs. 2500.00) to CHQ.

Allahabad Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Four thousand eight hundred (Rs 4800.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 06.05.2015 towards CHQ quota for twenty four (24) new life members.

Ambala Branch (Haryana State) has deposited Rupees Six hundred (Rs 600.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 06.05.2015 towards CHQ quota for three (3) new life members.

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