



Editorial

TIME TO RESTART EFFORTS FOR RESOLVING PAY AND PENSION REVISION

With the installation of the new Government at the center, after over two months of hectic electioneering process, time is now ripe for all the stake-holders in BSNL to take up the pay and pension revision cases with the concerned authorities in right earnest. This time they need to avoid any short cut method and diversionary tactics which had put both these issues to reach the dead end and shelved for some time. They must accept the law that pay and pension revision are inter-linked and one cannot be separated from the other. We have discussed these in detail in the Editorial of March 2019 issue of our e-journal and we need not repeat the same here.

We strongly believe that the case for revision of pay scales of the serving BSNL employees needs to be on the top of the agenda. There would naturally be questions about BSNL's ability to bear the additional burden on allowing pay revision. While there must be concrete efforts to counter this question by finding solution through additional internal resources as was done during implementation of 2nd PRC recommendations, top priority needs to be given to the proposal to allow pension

contribution on the actual pay as was allowed to the Central Government employees on deputation with effect from 1.1.2006 and not on the maximum of the scales. The efforts on the part of a Branch office-bearer of this Association on his individual capacity made the Government to reveal the ground on which the decision was taken in 2009 in respect of the Central Government employees for payment of pension contribution on actual pay which was earlier being collected on the maximum of the pay scales. It is now found that the ground advanced by the Government at that time to take this decision, not only equally but also undisputedly applies in case of the BSNL employees. The matter, with this fresh and undisputable input, has already been taken up with the concerned authorities. We strongly believe that now Government cannot have any excuse to deny implementation of its Order for pension contribution on actual pay of the BSNL employees. This issue draws immense significance, since allowing pension contribution on actual pay w.e.f. 1.1.2006, will enable BSNL to receive back considerable amount from Government which was paid as pension contribution

calculated on maximum of the scales. Refund of such huge amount will certainly help in resolving the pay scale revision issue and also help further in revival of financial condition.

Apart from the above, the stake holders now need to pursue with DOT the revival plan of BSNL which was said to be under

consideration of Digital Communication Commission. But no progress was reported after election was announced and model code of conduct came into force. Now that there is no bar for the Government to take any policy decision, let us hope that things start moving in right direction and intention.❖

ISSUES TAKEN UP

VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS ON DIRECT TAXES – AIBSNLREA SUBMITS ITS VIEWS AS APPLICABLE TO THE PENSIONERS: As the new Government is to present its full budget in Parliament in July 2019, AIBSNLREA has since submitted its views and suggestions to the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare on direct taxes as to be applicable to the pensioners for the consideration of the Government of India. The Association has requested full exemption of income tax on pension, interests earned from Bank deposits, interests on Sr Citizens Savings Schemes, pension from Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana and reimbursement of medical claims for outdoor treatment. [\[View posting dated 27.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

PROVISION OF MOBILE CONNECTION IN LIEU OF LANDLINE TO THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF BSNL RESIDING IN TNF AREAS AND CLOSURE OF WLL EXCHANGES - AIBSNLREA NOW TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH CMD, BSNL: AIBSNLREA has now taken up the above issue with CMD, BSNL stating that the Association had been taking up the issue for the last few years and even had a meeting GM(Admn) on 22.12.2016. The Association was given to understand that the matter was under active consideration and a decision would follow soon. But the matter still remains unsettled. AIBSNLREA has again said that though retired BSNL employees are entitled to get concessional telephone connection, many of them are not being extended the benefit since the area in which they are residing are declared as TNF areas and due to closure of WLL Exchanges even the WLL connections have been withdrawn. The Association has further cited the Order issued by MP Telecom Circle allowing the provision of Mobile connection to the retired/retiring BSNL employees who are not provided Land Line facility due to non-feasibility or availing existing WLL connection which has given relief to the affected retired employees. The Association has stated in its letter that "it is surprising that when a Telecom Circle can take such a policy decision, why the Corporate Office cannot take a uniform policy decision on the same issue to be applicable all over India. After all, policies for provision of concessional telephone facility to the retired BSNL employees are the subject matter of Corporate Office". The Association has finally requested CMD, BSNL "to kindly advise the concerned Officers to issue early Orders allowing provision of mobile connection to the retired BSNL employees who are residing in TNF areas and the WLL connections earlier provided to some of them have been disconnected". [\[View posting dated 24.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

NON-SETTLEMENT OF THE GENUINE ISSUE OF FORCING ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS TO PURCHASE MEDICINES ONLY FROM THE STORES HAVING LARGE NETWORK OR OTHER ONLINE STORES OFFERING MINIMUM 12% DISCOUNTS– CASE OF BSNL, MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter on the above issue to Secretary (Telecom) expressing its total disappointment that the above genuine grievance raised by the Association still remains unsettled and the DOT letter No. DOTEL/P/2019/00435 dated 16.04.2019 attaching a copy of an internal communication from the AGM (Admn), BSNL, Maharashtra Telecom Circle to the Dy General Manager (Admn), BSNL, Maharashtra Telecom, vide No. A/Admn-I/Medical Pharmacy/2018/18 dated 10.04.2019, only gives present status of the issue at the Circle level and this is far from satisfactory [View posting dated 28.04.2019 in this website to read the letter]. The Association, in its letter, has mentioned that four specific points which arose in this case have not been answered by the Circle administration. Secretary (Telecom) has now been requested to kindly advise BSNL Management to immediately intervene in the matter and get the issue resolved at the earliest by getting its Maharashtra Telecom Circle to withdraw its irregular Order dated 07.07.2018. [\[View posting dated 21.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CMD, BSNL REQUESTING TO CHANGE THE EXISTING METHOD OF DECIDING THE ANNUAL CEILING LIMIT FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT BASED ON PAY DRAWN AT THE TIME OF RETIREMENT TO BASIC PENSION AS REVISED FROM TIME TO TIME: Referring to its earlier letter addressed to Principal General Manager (Admn), BSNL Corporate Office submitting its suggestions in connection with review of existing medical policy (view posting dated 25.02.2019 in this website to read the letter), AIBSNLREA has now requested Chairman & Managing Director, BSNL to examine on priority and accept the request to bring a uniformity in the matter of inputs to decide the annual ceiling limit for outdoor treatment of the absorbed BSNL pensioners basing on their pension as revised from time to time instead of last pay drawn at the time of retirement in the pre-revised or post-revised pay scales to avoid discrimination and disparity. The Association has reiterated its position that the ceiling limit so arrived at by adding the DA as admissible on 1st April of the years has to be multiplied by 2 to bring parity with the serving employees. [\[View posting dated 20.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

NON-EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF NOTIONAL PROMOTION AND CONSEQUENTIAL PENSIONARY BENEFITS IN TERMS OF DOP&PT OM NO. 22011/3/2013-Estt.(D) DATED 25.01.2016- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF SHRI R R GARG, RETD JTO, BSNL, GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE WITH SECRETARY (TELECOM): AIBSNLREA has since taken up the case of Shri R. R. Garg, Retd JTO, Gujarat Telecom Circle, who was considered for promotion to TES Group B by a duly constituted DPC held in the year 2002 and findings of which was kept in sealed cover, but has not got his due notional promotion by opening the sealed cover in terms of DOP&T OM No. 22011/3/2013-Estt.(D) dated 25.01.2016 even after his acquittal from the charges by a CBI Court and consequent absorption in BSNL. The Association has addressed letter to Secretary (Telecom) and sought her intervention “so that justice is bestowed on Shri R.R.Garg, Retd JTO, since absorbed in BSNL, by allowing him notional promotion by opening the sealed cover of the

DPC held in the year 2002 as per provisions of the above quoted DOP&T O.M.". [\[View posting dated 17.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF CLAIMS FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT WITH OR WITHOUT VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS FOR INDOOR TREATMENT UNDER BSNLMRS - AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WITH SECRETARY(TELECOM): AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) with copy endorsed to Secretary (Pension) highlighting the acute problems of the absorbed BSNL pensioners due to non-reimbursement of their medical claims both for outdoor and indoor treatment. The Association has stated that "Under the BSNLMRS, the retired employees are eligible to get reimbursement of their medical claims for outdoor treatment within the ceiling limit as decided by BSNL and also the claims for reimbursement of indoor treatment in empaneled hospitals. It may kindly be noted that the BSNL pensioners are not entitled for any kind of medical advance and they are to bear the entire expenses by themselves. The empaneled hospitals do not allow cashless treatment since their bills also remain unpaid for a long period. Thus, timely reimbursement of the claims of the retired employees is essential to allow them to live peacefully by managing their requirement within the meagre pension that they get." The Association has further added that "BSNL is not clearing the pending claims submitted by the retired employees even during the last half of the financial year 2018-19. It is to be pointed out that the reimbursement of medical claims for outdoor treatment attracts deduction of TDS and the concerned retired employees are to submit the details while submitting their Income Tax returns. Thus, non-reimbursement of claims for outdoor treatment even after the end of financial year has put the concerned pensioners in great trouble". AIBSNLREA has finally requested Secretary (Telecom) to advise BSNL to clear all pending bills and make their immediate payment. [\[View posting dated 15.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS AND REVISED PENSION TO SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR TRIPATHI, RETD SDE, NTR, KOTA BY PR CCA, NEW DELHI: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) regarding non-payment of pensionary benefits and revised pension to Shri Ravindra Kumar Tripathi, Retd SDE, NTR, Kota whose final retirement Order effective from 30.06.2014 was issued by BSNL Corporate Office and following which NTR, New Delhi had forwarded all the requisite documents to the Pr CCA Office. The Association has requested Secretary (T) to intervene in the matter so that Shri Ravindra Tripathi, SDE is paid his revised pension, DCRG and Commuted Value of Pension without further delay. [\[View posting dated 13.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF NON-REFUND OF GPF CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER, 1986 TO SEPTEMBER, 1990 TO SHRI V VELAPPAN, RETD DGM, TAMILNADU TELECOM CIRCLE: Shri V Velappan, Retd DGM, who was working in MTNL Mumbai as Assistant Engineer from November 1986 till May 1993, did not receive back his GPF contributions and the interests thereon for the period of November 1986 to September 1990 which was duly deducted from his salary and remitted to DMT Coimbatore. Since his numerous representations have failed

to yield any fruitful result, AIBSNLREA has now taken up the case with Secretary (Pension), Department of Pension & Pensioners' welfare. [\[View posting dated 10.05.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION

DOT'S RESPONSE TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA REQUESTING GRANT OF ANNUAL INCREMENT EVEN ON NOTIONAL BASIS FALLING DUE ON THE DAY FOLLOWING SUPERANNUATION ON COMPLETION OF ONE FULL YEAR SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES: AIBSNLREA had earlier made several representations to the concerned authorities on the above issue since 2015. Following a Madras High Court judgment in an individual case allowing the benefit to the petitioner and the Supreme Court dismissing the SLP of the Government, the Association again took up the matter with the concerned authorities. Now, DOT has disposed-off our said representation quoting the existing provision on the matter in Rule 33 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 which does not allow the benefit. Thus, our effort to get the benefit to all similarly placed pensioners did not meet with success. [\[View posting dated 30.05.2019 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

CONSULTATION FROM SPECIALISTS AT CGHS EMPANELLED HOSPITALS IN RESPECT OF BENEFICIARIES AGED 75 YEARS AND ABOVE– DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE RELAXES RULES: In an important development and allowing relief to the aged CGHS beneficiaries, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has issued an Order stating that the CGHS beneficiaries aged 75 years and above shall be permitted to seek direct OPD consultation from Specialists of private hospitals empaneled under CGHS without referral from CGHS Wellness Centres. In addition, if any investigations/procedures are advised and are required in emergency, no other authorization is required. [\[View posting dated 31.05.2019 in this website to read the Do H&FA Order\].](#)

MP TELECOM CIRCLE ORDERS PROVISION OF MOBILE CONNECTION TO THE RETIRED/RETIRING BSNL EMPLOYEES FOR TWO MONTHS IN VIEW OF CLOSURE OF WLL SERVICES: AIBSNLREA is the only Association which has been relentlessly pursuing with BSNL Management to provide Mobile connection to the retired/retiring BSNL employees residing in the non-feasible areas and where the WLL connections were closed due to the policy decision of BSNL. BSNL Corporate Office is reported to have already examined the case and is all set to issue an Order on the matter. Meanwhile MP Telecom Circle of BSNL has issued an order allowing provision of pre-paid mobile connection to the retired/retiring employees who are not provided Land Line facility due to non-feasibility or availing existing WLL connection, for a period of two months. We are expecting BSNL Corporate Office to shortly issue an order allowing this benefit, which will be applicable for all Circles. [\[View posting dated 13.05.2019 in this website to read the MP Telecom Circle letter\].](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

AIBSNLREA, WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES: A delegation of AIBSNLREA, WB State Branch comprising of President Shri S C Ray, State Secretary Shri K C Dey, Asst. State. Secretary Shri Sukumar Ghosh and Executive member Shri Ashim Sil met the Chief

General Manager, Calcutta Telephones in his chamber on 26/04/2019 and discussed the following burning issues being faced by the retired executive of BSNL, Calcutta Telephones: -

(1) Uniformity of the medical bill payment in all the units under CTD: - The administration assured to maintain uniformity henceforth.

(2) Fixation of pension to retired officiating JTO's in the light of Principal CAT judgement -Cases of S/Shri Tapas Ranjan Banerjee, Jiban Krishna Biswas and others: - The CGM instructed DGM(HR) to look into the cases and settle them early.

(3) Immediate payment of partially held up 25% leave encashment to recently retired executive. - Cases of S/Shri Manas Kumar Das, Avijit Chakraborty and others: - The CGM wanted the cases to be examined.

(4) Withholding of time bound scale upgradation order from E3 - E4 for several retired executives for want of service books: - The matter will be taken up with Principal CCA CTD at the earliest.

(5) Opening of more nodal centres in the jurisdiction of BSNL, Calcutta Telephones for the acceptance of grievances of retired executives as instructed by DOT under the comprehensive Pension Management System: -. The administration assured to consider opening of area-wise nodal centres.

(6) Procedure for switching over from BSNLMRS to CGHS: - The administration referred the latest order published in Medha Intranet/CTD on 29/03/2019 and also advised to opt for CGHS Scheme, if desired.

The Association thanked CGM for the meeting. He assured the representatives of the Association to meet again after three months for review.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING MAY, 2019

Hubli Branch (Karnataka State) has deposited Rupees seven thousand five hundred (Rs. 7500/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 20.05.2019 as contribution towards the court case seeking pay/pension arrears collected from 15 members.

East Godavari Branch (AP State) has deposited Rupees one thousand (Rs. 1000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 14.05.2019 as CHQ quota for 5 new Life Members.

Gujarat State Branch has deposited Rupees twenty thousand (Rs. 20000/-) by Ch No. 714282 dt 02.05.2019 (SBI) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 14.05.2019 as CHQ quota for 100 new Life Members.

Kanpur Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 10.05.2019 as CHQ quota for two new Life Members.

Shri A V Ratnam, Retd SDE, Meerpetta, Telangana has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs. 600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 04.05.2019 as as contribution towards the court case seeking pay/pension arrears.

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