



Editorial

PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF PENSION WITH FITMENT BENEFIT BY MERGER OF 78.2% IDA MOVES FORWARD

It comes as a major relief to the absorbed BSNL pensioners, who retired before 10.06.2013, that finally the Department of Telecommunications has circulated the draft cabinet note for revision of their pension with the revised fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% DA to all the concerned Ministries seeking for their comments. The draft cabinet note is reported to contain the original proposal of Department Telecommunications as given below:

“(1) For Pre-2007 BSNL IDA Pensioners/family Pensioners: The pension/family pension of pre-2007 BSNL IDA pensioners/family pensioners will be consolidated with effect from 1.1.2007, by adding together:- (i) Existing pension/family pension including commuted portion of pension, if any; (ii) Dearness relief (IDA) @ 78.2% of basic pension/family pension; (iii) Fitment weightage @ 30% of the sum of existing pension/family pension and dearness relief (IDA) thereon. The amount so arrived at will be regarded as consolidated pension/family pension with effect from 01.01.2007. The actual benefits to this effect will be given only with effect from 10.06.2013 and no arrears will be paid upto 09.06.2013.

(2) For Post-2007 BSNL IDA pensioners/family pensioners retired from

1.1.07 to 09.06.13: The pay of these category of absorbees will be revised notionally by allowing the benefits of merger of 50% DA w.e.f. 1.1.2007 effectively amounting to 78.2% DA for the purpose of fitment. However, the revised pension to this effect will be paid only with effect from 10.06.2013 and no arrears will be paid upto 10.06.2013. To give parity between BSNL absorbees retiring/retired after 01.01.2007, it would be appropriate to allow this category of the BSNL pensioners/family pensioners for payment of difference of pensionary benefits viz. DCRG, Commuted Value of Pension. Leave encashment due to notional IDA pay revision”.

It may be recollected that the above proposal of Department of Telecommunications was already examined by two key Ministries i.e. Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and Department of Expenditure. While giving its response to the above proposal, Department of Expenditure had categorically conveyed in respect of post-2007 pensioners/family pensioners that “ In so far as the proposal of 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 arrear thereof is concerned, DOPPW have observed that since

IDA pensioners do not get any actual benefit of increase in pay/pension during the period between 1.1.2007 to 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.”

It is now confirmed from the above that Establishment Branch of Department of Telecommunications had to face several queries from its own Internal Finance Unit for inclusion of a part of its own original proposal regarding payment of increased DCRG, CVP and Leave encashment to those who retired from 1.1.2007 to 9.6.2013 which was not agreed to both by DOP&PW and DOE. It is not yet known what new justifications the Establishment Branch could give in support of its decision to include this portion of its original proposal in the draft cabinet note and get its Internal Finance Unit to concur with the said draft

note. However, now it all depends on DOP&PW and DOE whether they also now agree to this part of the proposal. Only time will clear the entire picture.

As we have said earlier that Department of Telecommunications will have to wait for a month or two to get the final response from the concerned Ministries. However, meanwhile if any Ministry asks for further clarifications from Department of Telecommunications, it could be delayed further. Once the comments/views from these Ministries are available, the final cabinet note will be prepared by incorporating these comments/views and put up to the Minister of Communications & IT for his approval. Thereafter, this Final Cabinet Note will be sent to the Cabinet Secretariat for its scrutiny and put up before the Cabinet for approval. Thus, one has to wait and watch for the progress.

EXPECTED INCREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2015

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, IDA is to be increased w.e.f. 1.7.2015 by 2.1% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and by 3.6% where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

STATUS REPORT OF FEW IMPORTANT ISSUES

ANOMALY IN FIXATION OF PENSION OF DOT EMPLOYEES ABSORBED IN BSNL, WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.7.2001: AIBSNLREA has been pursuing the above issue for last few years. The issue also became a regular item for discussions in the meetings of SCOVA. In its last meeting held on 03.02.2015, it was recorded in the minutes that “It was informed that

since the last SCOVA meeting, two meetings were held with the officials of Department of Telecom on 20.9.2014 and 30.12.2014 and Department of Telecom was advised to expedite the details/Reply sought in DOP&PW's ID Note dtd 28.02.2014. Department of Telecom informed that the BSNL is collecting the requisite information sought by DOP&PW from corporate offices of BSNL/MTNL. Department of Telecom was advised to send a reply to DOP&PW within a fortnight". However, DOT was taking its time to prepare and send the reply since the requisite information was being delayed from BSNL. Now it is informed by DOT that the concerned file in which the issue is being dealt has been referred to DOP&PW for a decision on the issue.

DRAFT CABINET NOTE FOR REVISION OF PENSION CIRCULATED: The draft cabinet note on the proposal for revision of pension of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners and the post 2007 BSNL pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 stands circulated by Department of Telecommunications to all the concerned Ministries. The draft cabinet note also includes payment of enhanced Gratuity, Commuted Value of Pension and leave encashment on the date of retirement to those who retired after 01.01.2007 but before 10.06.2013. This part of the proposal was not earlier agreed to by both Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and Department of Expenditure.

BSNL ISSUES TENTATIVE SENIORITY LIST NO. 1 TO 17 OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS: Following a Supreme Court direction on 21.01.2015, BSNL has since issued the tentative revised 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. BSNL has now asked the Circles to furnish the missing information in these lists in respect of some of these Officers so that the same could be incorporated in the final revised seniority lists. Such retired Officers are requested to contact their respective Circle Offices and provide the information if found necessary. We had earlier informed through this website that Supreme Court had also 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 was to 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 Committee is understood to have heard all the stake holders and AIBSNLREA had also submitted its view points to the said Committee [View posting dated 03.05.2015 in this website to read the letter]. The Supreme Court has to consider the report of the Expert Committee and thereafter issue final orders. This may take some time. Till that we are to keep our fingers crossed. [\[View posting dated 10.06.2015 in AIBSNLREA website to get the Tentative Seniority List.\]](#)

FIXATION OF RATES OF CONTRIBUTION AND WARD ENTITLEMENT TO AVAIL CGHS FACILITIES BY RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES:

The above issue was last discussed in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies on 03.02.2015 and the minutes of the meeting was also circulated by DOP&PW vide OM No. 42/39/2014-P&PW(G) dated 26.02.2015 wherein it was recorded that “Department of Telecom informed that since pay structure in BSNL and Central Govt. was different, the orders of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare regarding Ward entitlement on the basis of pay band/grade pay could not be made applicable in case of BSNL retirees. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare requested Department of Telecom to suggest alternate mechanism for the retirees of BSNL. Department of Telecom was advised to send a proposal to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in this regard in a month’s time”. However till this date, DOT has not sent any alternate proposal to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare but a request has been made by Member (Services), Telecom Commission vide his DO No. 4-12(11)/2012-PAT dated 19.05.2015 to Addl. Secretary & DG(CGHS) requesting him to fix a date to discuss the above issue along with the case for extension of the CGHS benefit to the ITS Officers working on deputation in BSNL/MTNL. The case has not progressed further.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP WITH SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW THE ISSUE OF NON FIXATION OF RATES OF CONTRIBUTION AND ENTILEMENT TO AVAIL CGHS FACILITIES BY RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES:

AIBSNLREA has taken up the above issue with Secretary (Pension), Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare since the Department of Telecommunications is yet to send a proposal on the connected issues to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as was agreed to in the 26th Meeting of SCOVA held on 03.02.2015. The Association has requested for his intervention to expedite settlement of this long pending issue. [\[View posting dated 27.06.2015 in this website to read the letter.\]](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES BACK TO DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS ON THE ISSUE OF NON-ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS FOR PERMANENT ABSORPTION OF SHRI S S YADAV, RETD. JTO, MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE:

Responding to the letter from the Department of Telecommunications to CMD, BSNL in the case of non-issue of Presidential Order for absorption of Shri S S Yadav, Retd. JTO Maharashtra Circle [Posting dated 02.06.2013 in this website may be viewed for details], AIBSNLREA now writes DOT to inform that the much awaited Presidential Order for absorption in this case has not yet been issued by Maharashtra Telecom Circle of BSNL and also requested it to intervene. *NB:- The issue stands settled. Maharashtra Circle has since issued the Presidential Directive.* [\[View posting dated 09.06.2015 in this website to read the letter.\]](#)

RESPONSE ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH OF BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE ASKS BW SECTION OF BSNL TO INFORM AIBSNLREA IN REGARD TO THE CASE OF FIXATION OF PAY ON GRANT OF SECOND ACP TO SHRI ARABINDA CHOUDHURY, RETD. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL), SILIGURI, WEST BENGAL CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA had been pursuing the case for non-settlement of the representation of Shri Arabinda Chaudhury, Retd. Executive Engineer (Civil), Siliguri, West Bengal for proper fixation of his pay/pension following grant of 2nd ACP since long. AIBSNLREA's last representation to DOP&PW that BSNL Corporate Office was not responding to repeated representations to resolve the issue caused DOP&PW to advise DOT to examine the issue and inform the Association accordingly [Posting dated 31.03.2015 in this website be viewed for more details]. Now Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office has informed its BW Section that the communications received from West Bengal Circle in regard to this case were transferred to PGM(BW) on 29.07.2013. It has further advised BW Section to inform the applicant (AIBSNLREA) suitably in respect of the case of Shri Arabinda Choudhury, Retd. Executive Engineer (Civil), West Bengal Circle. *To read the letter from BSNL (Establishment Branch), posting dated 15.06.2015 in this website may be viewed.*

DOP&PW ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION DATED 18.05.2015 REGARDING NON SETTLEMENT OF CASES FOR REGULARISATION OF LEAVE DURING SUSPENSION PERIOD AND QUASHING THE ORDERS FOR REMOVAL FROM SERVICE IN RESPECT OF SHRI S N GAJBE, RETD SDE, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE – FORWARDS THE REPRESENTATION TO DOT: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has acknowledged the receipt of AIBSNLREA's representation dated 18.05.2015 [view posting dated 19.05.2015 in this website for details] addressed to Member (Services) and copy endorsed to Secretary (Pension) requesting early settlement of cases for regularization of leave during suspension period and quashing of Orders for removal of service in respect of Shri S N Gajbe, Retd SDE, Maharashtra Circle and forwarded the said representation to Department of Telecommunications to examine the issues as per extant rules/orders. *To read the letter from DOP&PW, posting dated 04.06.2015 in this website may be viewed.*

RESPONDING TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO MEMBER (SERVICES), TELECOM COMMISSION REGARDING NON-SETTLEMENT OF PERMANENT ABSORPTION CASE OF SHRI S S YADAV, RETD. JTO, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE, DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS NOW WRITES TO CMD, BSNL: AIBSNLREA had earlier taken up the case of non-settlement of permanent absorption of Shri S S Yadav, Retired JTO, Nagpur of Maharashtra Circle in BSNL with Member (Services), Telecom Commission endorsing a copy 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]. SR Section of BSNL had also responded to the letter and intimated that DOT had already conveyed its 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 endorsing the same to CGMT, MH Circle for further action. The letters from both BSNL and DOT were posted in this website on 27.04.2015. Now Department of Telecommunication has also addressed a letter to CMD, BSNL stating all the facts and asking to furnish a compliance report to it with regard to issue of presidential order to Shri S S Yadav. [To read the letter from Department of Telecommunications, posting dated 02.06.2015 in this website may be viewed.](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

AIBSNLREA, UP STATE BRANCH MEETS CGMT, UP EAST CIRCLE: The representatives of UP State Branch of AIBSNLREA, comprising of S/Shri R S Arora, State Secretary, Ambika Singh, State Finance Secretary and S P Singh, Lucknow Branch Secretary, met CGMT, UP East Telecom Circle on 3rd June, 2015 in his chamber and submitted a representation on some grievances of the pensioners being faced in the Circle. The CGMT listened to the grievances with due attention and immediately ordered the concerned officers responsible for payment of Medical Bills to meet him next day in his chamber to sort out the issue. Regarding denial of allowing use of Conference Hall for meetings/conference to AIBSNLREA, he called the PRO to ascertain the position. It was told that due to the objection raised by Local J.C.M, the accommodation was not being provided. It was informed that a committee has already been formed to formulate policies/guidelines for providing accommodation for conducting meetings and a decision will be taken soon.

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