



Editorial

REVAMP BSNL MANAGEMENT TO REVIVE AND SAVE BSNL

More than eight months have passed since the Union Cabinet approved Revival Plan for BSNL and MTNL and in-principle merger of the two PSUs. The Plan included administrative allotment of 4G spectrum to the two PSUs, funded by the Government of India by capital infusement, raising of long-term bonds of Rs.15,000 crores with sovereign guarantee provided by the Government of India so that BSNL and MTNL will restructure their existing debt and also partly meet their CAPEX, OPEX and other requirements; Voluntary Retirement Scheme to BSNL and MTNL employees aged 50 years and above, the cost of Rs.17169 crores to be borne by Government of India through budgetary support, monetizing the assets of BSNL and MTNL to raise resources for retiring debt, servicing bonds, network upgradation, expansion and meeting operational fund requirements.

To-day, if one wants to review the progress made to implement the Revival plan of BSNL and MTNL, as approved by the Union Cabinet, he/she will be shocked to know that though the revival plan included four major components, as briefed above, DoT/BSNL appear to have been interested only in implementing the VRS, actively preparing and implementing the task during

November, December 2019 and January 2020, thereby ensuring that nearly 80,000 employees were forced out unceremoniously. Till then it was being repeatedly projected that expenditure towards employees' salary was the sole cause for all financial troubles of BSNL like non-payment of salary in time, non-payment of medical claims, vendor bills, electricity bills, contract labourer wages and non-remitting of dues collected from the employees to the DoT, Banks, LIC and co-operative societies, and that reducing the employee strength by 50% will result in BSNL turning profitable.

But now, even after five months that over 80,000 employees were virtually unceremoniously forced to get out of BSNL through VRS - thus reducing expenditure on their salary, perks and pension contribution to DOT, BSNL is still keeping its remaining serving employees guessing every month when their salary would be paid. Moreover, reimbursement of medical claims, Vendor Bills, electricity bills, contract labourer wages and non-remitting of dues collected from the employees to the DoT, Banks, LIC and co-operative societies are still remaining pending as before. Situation in some places has now turned so worse that the Executives in the field are regularly facing threats, abuse, intimidation, physical obstruction through gherao by the Contract labourers and their Union leaders. Only a week back, a Divisional

Engineer in Calcutta Telephones was slapped inside the Exchange premises by the unruly labourers.

Now the question comes, what the BSNL Management has done with the money which was supposed to have been saved for the last five months from the salary bills and other perks of over 80,000 BSNL employees since sent out on VRS? What happened to the money that BSNL was not required to pay to DOT as pension contribution in respect of these VRS retirees? Does not this confirm that these VRS optees were not actually behind the poor financial performance of BSNL as was being claimed by the Management? The problem, in fact, lies elsewhere.

Further, there is no iota of doubt that due to lack of simultaneous planning along with VRS for the post-VRS handling of services, there is utter confusion in the field. Outsourcing of outdoor maintenance work is said to have resulted in comparatively more expenditure on BSNL than needed. BSNL services have also been deteriorating- the blame for which cannot be put entirely on the COVID-19 situation.

Again, the other important components of the Revival Plan remain non-starters. The tender floated by BSNL, to procure 4G equipment, was first put on hold by the Government, based on the complaint from the Telecom Equipment and Services Promotion Council (TEPC). The tender document, was reported to had been prepared in favour of certain influential foreign company. Now, finally BSNL had to cancel the tender and it is not known when BSNL would actually launch 4G services. The approval for sovereign guarantee for the Rs.15,000 crores long-term bonds to be raised by

BSNL is also reported to be delayed. Monetizing of the assets of BSNL has also not taken off. Even there is no progress in merger of BSNL and MTNL.

Both the BSNL Management and DOT Officers are in fact to be squarely blamed for this state of affairs in this Government owned PSU even after the full backing of Union Cabinet to their proposal for Revival Plan. BSNL actually needs proper leadership from its own people. But for the last twenty years, since its formation, BSNL was not allowed to create its own managerial cadre who would be held accountable and responsible for its ups and down. BSNL needed a leadership which would either sail or sink with BSNL. But to serve the need of a particular Cadre of DOT i.e. the ITS Officers, BSNL was just treated as a colony of DOT for the expansion and career growth of this Cadre. These Officers work in BSNL as 'deputationist' and enjoy everything that they are supposed to get as Government Servants without any responsibility and accountability to the BSNL. No doubt, there are few exceptions who take the challenge seriously, but their numbers are hardly a few. At one point of time in 2013, DOT had drawn and circulated a road map to withdraw all ITS Officers both from BSNL and MTNL by 2022-23. But for the reasons best known to the ITS-controlled DOT, the number of deputationists continue to increase and no one now talks on the need of the BSNL's own Managerial Cadre.

This lobby in DOT is so powerful, that it did not even include an important recommendation of IIM, Ahmedabad in the proposal for Revival Plan for BSNL which was going against their interest. We all know that the components of this Revival Plan were based on the

recommendations of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, but one of the recommendations viz. 'inclusion of professionals who have had experience in running large businesses' was conspicuously absent in the cabinet Note submitted by the DoT and later approved by the Union Cabinet. The IIM Report had also suggested that "Academics for top-ranked Indian management institutes or Foreign institutes may be opted for board positions." Exclusion of this all-important recommendation from the Cabinet Note might allow these Officers continue to treat BSNL as their colony and allow them to enjoy endless benefit in their expansion and career progression, but BSNL cannot survive for long – forget about its taking over the leadership in telecom sector.

If Government is really committed to revive BSNL, it must accept the recommendation of IIM, Ahmedabad for inclusion of professionals with experience in running large business in BSNL and also to opt for academicians from top-ranked Indian Management Institutes as Board Members. Let BSNL have its own Managerial Cadre. We also strongly feel the need for immediate induction of some knowledgeable and experienced Officers in Administration, SR, Establishment and Personnel from DOP&T and other Organizations, in BSNL Corporate Office so that HR activities, which are as important as other technical and financial activities, are properly planned, controlled and managed. We strongly believe that without revamping BSNL Management, BSNL cannot be revived and saved.



AIBSNLREA PAYS RESPECTFUL HOMAGE TO OUR BRAVE JAWANS WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES WHILE FIGHTING WITH THE CHINESE AGGRESSORS IN GALWAN VALLEY OF LADAKH TO PROTECT THE SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR MOTHERLAND. AIBSNLREA ALSO FEELS PROUD OF THE BRAVERY AND SELFLESS SERVICE OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND OTHERS IN PROTECTING THE BORDERS OF THE COUNTRY EVEN IN THE MOST TRYING CONDITIONS AND DECLARES ITS TOTAL SOLIDARITY WITH THEM.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MONTH

***Calcutta Telephones issued Orders, vide its No. ADMN/HQ/2020 dated 01.06.2020, asking only those retired BSNL employees, who are willing to change their previous option, to submit fresh option for outdoor medical claims.**

***Accepting the request from AIBSNLREA, BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-ADMN/12(12)/1/2020-ADMN dated 02.06.2020, issued orders allowing outdoor medical claims with latest prescription which are not older than six months in view of the difficulties being faced to get latest prescription due to lock down in the country for Covid-19 pandemic.**

***DOT issued an Order, vide its No. 36-9/2002-Pen(T)Pt dated 05.06.2020, superseding its earlier Order, clarifying that "... after retirement, in case where the judicial proceedings of any act during service (whether in official capacity or otherwise), which could be termed as misconduct under the provisions of CCS (Conduct) Rules are continued after retirement, such judicial proceedings shall come under the purview of Rule 9 and Rule 69 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. DOT has further clarified that there is no ruling for any differential treatment in regard to applicability of the above in regard to VRS optees under BSNL VRS-2019.**

***State Bank of India credited revised IDA @160.7% for the month of May 2020, which was not paid earlier along with the Pension for May, as arrears on 09.06.2020 in the Accounts of the BSNL IDA pensioners maintained by its branches. The issue was taken up and pursued by AIBSNLREA with all CPPCs of SBI.**

***Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, vide its F.No. Z15025/18/2020/DIR/CGHS dated 09.06.2020, issued an advisory to the Health Care Organizations empanelled under CGHS reiterating that all CGHS empanelled Hospitals, which are notified as COVID-Hospitals by State Governments shall provide treatment facilities to CGHS beneficiaries as per CGHS norms, for all CCOVID related treatments. It also retreated that all CGHS empanelled hospitals, which are not notified as COVID Hospitals shall not deny treatment facilities/admission to CGHS beneficiaries and shall charge as per CGHS norms, for all other treatments.**

***Kerala Circle, vide its No. SR/GENL/2012-17/93 dated 09.06.2020, ordered further extension of validity of BSNLMRS Cards issued to the retired BSNL employees up to 30.09.2020. The Circle has also ordered that in case of retired employees who are yet to get BSNL MRS Card, the MRS card issued while they were in service will be valid up to 30.09.2020.**

***BSNL issued Orders, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/ dated 10.06.2020, fixing 30.06.2020 as the date on or before which retired BSNL Employees are required to exercise one option out of three options including CGHS to avail outdoor medical claim, as offered earlier vide its Order dated 08.05.2020, while revising the annual ceiling limit for outdoor medical claims.**

***Chennai Telephones issued Orders, vide its No. AWL/BSNLMRS/GENL CIRCULAR/20-21 dated 16.06.2020, extending the validity of BSNLMRS Cards to the retired BSNL employees/VRS retirees till 31.08.2020**

***BSNL issued orders, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/ dated 19.06.2020, not only to amend its gross mistake in including CGHS as an alternative for outdoor medical claims in its earlier Order dated 08.05.2020 by clarifying that CGHS could be opted at any point of time, but also to extend last date for exercising option to 30.09.2020, exempt those not willing to change their earlier option from submitting fresh option and also exercise of option in future years by 30th June every year.**

***Department of Health & Family Welfare issued Orders, vide its No. 1-60/2017-CGHS/C&P/EHS dated June, 2020, revising the time limit for submission of final claims for reimbursement of medical expenses from existing three months to six months.**

***DOT, vide its F. No. 30-4/2019-PSU Affairs (Pt.I) dated 26.06.2020, issued orders conveying sanction of competent authority for Rupees three thousand twenty one crore (Rs. 3021 crores) to BSNL for ex-gratia payment to BSNL VRS opted employees.**

***Salary for the month of May, 2020 to the BSNL employees paid only on 26.06.2020.**

***BSNL pays part of second instalment of ex-gratia payment to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees on 29.06.2020.**

***BSNL Corporate Office finally accepted the repeated request from AIBSNLREA to further extend the validity of BSNLMRS Cards of the retired BSNL Employees on pan India basis and accordingly issued the much needed Orders, vide its No. BSNL/Admn./2020/Medical dated 29.06.2020, extending the validity of the BSNLMRS Cards of the retired employees upto 30.09.2020 or till further Orders.**

***Industrial Dearness Allowance for the CPSE employees, where last pay revision was ordered on 01.01.2007, is set to decrease by 0.8% w.e.f. 01.07.2020. Earlier also, IDA was decreased by 2.1% w.e.f. 01.04.2014, by 0.8% w.e.f. 01.01.2017 and by 2.4% w.e.f. 01.04.2017.**

DECREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2020

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, IDA is to decrease w.e.f. 1.7.2020 by 0.8% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and by 1.5% where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) REQUESTING HIS INTERVENTION IN RELEASE OF FUNDS TO CLEAR ALL PENDING MEDICAL CLAIMS AND ALSO STOPPING STEP-

MOTHERLY TREATMENT TOWARDS THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS BY THE BSNL MANAGEMENT CITING THE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED TO THE CIRCLES TO BLOCK MEDICAL LIABILITY CREATION OF RETIRED OFFICIALS IN SAP:

In continuation of its earlier letter to Secretary (Telecom), vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/47 dated 18.06.2020 [View posting dated 19.06.2020 in this website], AIBSNLREA has again requested Secretary (Telecom) “not only direct BSNL administration to allot the required fund to clear all the pending medical claims but also to give up its step-motherly treatment towards the BSNL IDA pensioners”. AIBSNLREA cites the instruction issued by BSNL Corporate Office to all the Circles, vide its No. BSNL/ERP/FICO/2018-19 dated 25.07.2019, not to post all claims of the retired officials in the SAP system and accordingly to block the medical liability creation of retired officials in SAP from 25th July 2019 to October 2019. Association has maintained that “This fact came to light when PGM Ahmedabad disposed of a Grievance lodged in DOPPW’s website CPENGRAMS vide No. DOPPW/E/2020/08777 by an aggrieved BSNL IDA pensioner” which clearly indicates the biased attitude of BSNL Management against the BSNL IDA pensioners. [View posting dated 29.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

NON-EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF BSNLMRS CARDS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES ON PAN INDIA BASIS- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY (TELECOM):

AIBSNLREA, in a letter addressed to Secretary (Telecom), has drawn his attention that despite strict advisory issued by Government of India for the Senior Citizens – especially those above 65 years of age and with comorbidities not to travel and remain indoor, BSNL Administration has not so far issued Orders extending the validity of BSNLMRS Cards of the retired BSNL employees on pan India basis and thus compelling them to violate the advisory issued by the Government. The Association has also pointed out that though a few Circles, appreciating the urgency and genuineness of the issue, have issued Orders extending the validity of BSNLMRS Cards of the retired BSNL employees pertaining to their respective Circles, BSNL Corporate Office has failed to appreciate the need and issue the much needed Orders which exposes their insensitiveness and inhumane attitude. The Association has finally requested Secretary (Telecom) to advise BSNL Management to immediately issue the Orders extending the validity of BSNLMRS Cards of the retired BSNL employees on pan India basis, so that they face no problem in getting treatment during these difficult days. [View posting dated 25.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

DRASTIC CUTS IMPOSED IN THE ANNUAL CEILING LIMIT FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT UNDER BSNLMRS FOR THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES BY GOING BACK TO AN OLD AND INITIAL ORDER OF 2003 WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED IN 2010 WITH THE APPROVAL OF BSNL BOARD- AIBSNLREA MAKES AN APPEAL TO MOC&IT TO STAY OPERATION OF BSNL’S ORDER DATED 08.05.2020 IN RESPECT OF THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES AND REITERATE OPERATION OF THE MODIFIED ORDER DATED 08.09.2010:

AIBSNLREA has now addressed a letter to MOC&IT stating that “We are constraint to seek your kind personal intervention on an issue, which has serious implication on the aged and ailing BSNL IDA pensioners to take treatment of their diseases which are mostly chronic and long term in nature, because of BSNL Administration’s surprising, irregular and inhuman action to lean back to a provision of an Order issued initially on 28.02.2003, but was no more in operation following partial modification of that Order issued with the approval of BSNL Board in 2010”. The Association has further pointed out that “BSNL, in its Order dated 08.05.2020, has taken the “Basic Pay + DA on the date of retirement” which was available in the initial Order as the base to decide the eligibility for claims with voucher (As per provisions of Para 2.1.0 of Notification No.

BSNL/ADMN/I dated 28.02.2003 and the guidelines issued vide No. BSNL/ADMN/I dated 22.04.2003 and as reiterated at Para 2.2 of BSNL No. BSNL/Admn.I/1 (Pt) dated 23.08.2006). But this action goes heavily against the old retirees who retired prior to revision of IDA pay scales of the serving employees. Thus, the employees who retire in the revised pay scales get an advantage over their past colleagues which violates the principle laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court that pensioners are to be treated as a homogeneous group and they cannot be divided based on their date of retirement. Moreover, in the initial order issued in the year 2003, which was later modified with the approval of BSNL Board, DA was admissible at the rate that was allowed on the date of their retirement. This again placed the retired employees in a very disadvantageous position, since the serving employees continued to receive the benefit of revision of IDA as ordered from time to time. Thus, the gap between the retired employees and serving employees in respect of ceiling on annual limit went on increasing—the past pensioners retired without pay revision becoming most affected". The Association also mentions about unjustified further reduction in the case of claims without vouchers and non-response from BSNL to the representation of AIBSNLREA submitted on 15.05.2020 to CMD, BSNL. The Association concluded the appeal by praying "In view of the above facts and considering the genuine hardships of the retired BSNL employees who too had served BSNL with utmost sincerity and integrity, we earnestly appeal to you to kindly advise BSNL to stay implementation of BSNL's Office Order No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020 in respect of the retired employees and reiterate application of BSNL Office Order No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 08.09.2010 which was issued with the approval of BSNL Board to modify a provision of 2003 Order for mitigating the genuine hardships of the retired employees". [View posting dated 22.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF NON-PAYMENT OF REGULAR PENSION AND OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI A S JOSHI, RETD CAO, AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE WITH SECRETARY (TELECOM) CITING BLATANT VIOLATIONS OF PROVISIONS OF CCS (PENSION) RULES, 1972 IN DENYING ISSUE OF VIGILANCE CLEARANCE: Citing the provisions in CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 which have been grossly violated by Maharashtra Telecom Circle while wrongly applying 3% reduction in pension on 'provisional pension' itself on conclusion of a disciplinary case and then denying issue of Vigilance Clearance to get him his regular pension and other pensionary benefits on the plea of another CBI case filed in the Court on a much later date, AIBSNLREA has sought the intervention of Secretary (Telecom) in the matter. The Association has pointed out that contrary to the claim of the Maharashtra Telecom Circle, the judicial proceedings in the CBI case actually commenced on 7.5.2018, the date on which the court took cognizance of the case and not on 26.9.2016 as claimed i.e. the date the CBI opened the case. Since there was no case pending against Shri Joshi on conclusion of his disciplinary case, his VC should have been issued for release of his final pension and other pensionary benefits. The Association has requested Secretary (Telecom) to "direct BSNL administration to strictly follow the Rules on the subjects and review the case of Shri A S Joshi, Retd CAO in the matter of his due date for vigilance clearance and to cause release of all his retirement benefits immediately". [View posting dated 20.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA SEEKS INTERVENTION OF SECRETARY (TELECOM) IN THE MATTER OF NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS AND REQUESTS HIM, AS HEAD OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT OF BSNL, TO DIRECT BSNL

TO ALLOT FUND AND RESOLVE THE GRIEVANCES IMMEDIATELY: Following disposal of the grievances lodged in CPENGRAMS by thousands of BSNL IDA pensioners regarding non-reimbursement of their medical claims with a stock reply by all the field Units that BSNL has not allotted Fund and thus expressing their helplessness to resolve the grievances and close the cases, AIBSNLREA has now sought the personal intervention of Secretary (Telecom), as the Head of the Administrative Department of BSNL, and to direct BSNL to allot required Fund to the field Units and resolve the grievances immediately. [View posting dated 19.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA DRAWS ATTENTION OF MOC&IT ON THE SERIOUS INJUSTICE METED OUT TO THE BSNL/MTNL IDA PENSIONERS WHO HAD NO PENSION REVISION BUT BEING CHARGED CGHS SUBSCRIPTION AT THE RATES THAT WAS REVISED DUE TO REVISION OF PAY SCALES/PENSION OF THE C.G. EMPLOYEES/PENSIONERS- REQUESTS CHARGING CGHS SUBSCRIPTION AT PRE-REVISED RATES TILL THE PENSION REVISION OF BSNL/MTNL IDA PENSIONERS TAKES PLACE: AIBSNLREA, in a letter addressed to Minister of Communications & IT, has drawn his attention to a serious injustice meted out the BSNL/MTNL IDA pensioners, who has no pension revision, by charging them CGHS subscription at the revised rates which were ordered consequent to revision of pay scales/pension of the C.G. Employees/pensioners as recommended by 7th CPC. The Association has requested that DOT issues a corrigendum to its order dated 01.07.2019 revising the mapping to determine rates of CGHS subscription and Ward entitlement for the BSNL/MTNL IDA pensioners and allow charging of CGHS subscription only at the pre-revised rates till their revision of pension takes place. [View posting dated 16.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) AGAINST COMPELLING RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES, WHO ARE SENIOR CITIZENS, TO TRAVEL AND VISIT BSNL OFFICES FOR EXERCISING SOME FORMALITIES WHICH COULD BE POSTPONED AND THUS VIOLATING THE ADVISORY ISSUED BY MHA IN VIEW OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC: AIBSNLREA has addressed Secretary (Telecom) against BSNL compelling the retired BSNL employees, who are senior citizens, to travel and visit BSNL Offices for the sake of exercising option for outdoor treatment which could have been postponed and thus violate the Advisory issued by Ministry of Home Affairs in view of Covid-19 pandemic for the Senior Citizens advising them to virtually remain indoor. The Association has pointed out that though BSNL has asked the Circles to arrange online submission of option also- but it is with an exception allowed “..as far as possible”. The Association has finally requested Secretary (Telecom) “to kindly intervene in the matter and advise BSNL suitably so that harassment of retired BSNL employees is stopped and all their pending bills for reimbursement of medical claims are immediately cleared. Let also BSNL do not go against the Advisory issued by Ministry of Home Affairs at least in respect of the Senior Citizens”. [View posting dated 12.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) FOR CONTINUATION OF PRACTICE TO SUBMIT FRESH OPTION ONLY BY THOSE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES WHO WANT TO SWITCH OVER FROM EXISTING OPTION TO OTHER ONE: Referring to the BSNL Orders issued vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/ dated 10.06.2020, fixing 30.06.2020 as the cut-off date for exercising option for outdoor medical claims by the retired BSNL employees, AIBSNLREA has requested Director (HR) for continuation of practice of submitting option only by those retired BSNL employees who want to switch over from the existing option to the other option. However,

the new retirees, who had no occasion to exercise option earlier, would invariably be required to submit their option. The Association has accordingly requested to issue an immediate clarification to this effect to the Circles and also make arrangement in Corporate Office to accept online option for the benefit of the BSNL employees retired from Corporate Office.

[View posting dated 11.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA REQUESTS MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE TO REVIEW THE RATE OF CONTRIBUTION FOR AVAILING LIFE-TIME CGHS FACILITY BY THE PENSIONERS RETIRED EARLIER BUT JOINING THE SCHEME LATE:

AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Minister of Health & Family Welfare on the above issue. The Association, in its letter, has submitted that some eligible pensioners, because of various compelling reasons, join the CGHS facility at different point of time after their retirement and avail the facility for a lesser period compared to those who join the Scheme earlier. But they are required to pay the same amount of subscription i.e. 10 years of monthly subscription as others. The Association has also pointed out that the pensioners, especially those who are aged and physically weak having problem in movement, do prefer life-time facility over annual subscription facility which is also under offer, to avoid the hassles of going through the process of getting the Cards renewed at the end of every year. The Association has finally requested that “the rates of contribution for life-time CGHS facility in respect of pensioners need to be made tapering with gradual reduction in the rate of contribution based on age factor, say after each five years, to benefit the aged pensioners joining the Scheme late. To begin with let the pensioners with 70 years of age and above joining the scheme late be allowed to have CGHS Cards with life-time facility on payment of 5 years of monthly subscriptions in place of 10 years as at present. We shall be extremely grateful if our above request is considered sympathetically”. [View posting dated 08.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

FURTHER EXTENSION OF VALIDITY OF FORM-15 G AND FORM-15H SUBMITTED TO THE BANKS/FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-20- AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO CHAIRMAN, CBDT:

In view of outbreak of pandemic Covid-19 virus which caused serious disruption of the normal functioning of the Banks and other Institutions and as the eligible persons were also not in a position to move out of their residences due to lock down and submit Form 15G and 15H to the Banks and other Institutions in time, the CBDT, vide its F.No.275/25/2020-IT(B) dated 03.04.2020, had earlier extended the validity of these Forms submitted during the financial year 2019-20 up to 30.06.2020. Now that the lock down has further been extended to till June 30, 2020 and public transport system has not become normal, AIBSNLREA has requested Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes for further extension of validity of Form-15 G and Form-15 H submitted in the financial year 2019-20 to the Banks/Financial Institutions to till July 31, 2020 of the financial year 2020-21. [View posting dated 05.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA PREQUEST DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL FOR FURTHER EXTENSION OF TIME FOR REVALIDATION OF BSNLMRS MEDICAL CARDS TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES ON PAN INDIA BASIS UP TO JULY 31, 2020:

Since Government has further extended lock down in the country till 30.06.2020 and the public transport is also not normal due to Covid-19 pandemic situation, AIBSNLREA has requested Director (HR), BSNL Board to order further extension of time for revalidation of BSNLMRS Medical Cards to the retired BSNL Employees on pan India

basis from 30.06.2020 to 31.07.2020. [View posting dated 04.06.2020 in this website to read the letter](#)

RESPONSES ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO SECRETARY(T) REGARDING NON-SETTLEMENT OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION AND OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS OF SHRI S B MOHARE, RETD AO, KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE– ADVISES CCA, KARNATAKA TO EXAMINE THE SAME FOR NECESSARY ACTION UNDER INTIMATION TO DOT: AIBSNLREA had taken up with Secretary (Telecom) about non-settlement of final superannuation pension of Shri S B Mohare, Retd AO, Karnataka Telecom Circle, whose judicial proceedings on his acquittal in a case by a Court was complete long before, despite repeated representations by the affected pensioner. It was also brought to the notice of Secretary (T) that even his provisional pension, which he is entitled to receive as per CCS (Pension) Rules, has also been suddenly stopped without assigning any reason. The Association requested for the intervention of Secretary (T) so that his final superannuation pension is settled at the earliest and his other pensionary benefits are also paid immediately [View posting dated 12.05.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Following this representation, DOT has forwarded the said representation to Controller of Communication Accounts, Karnataka Circle on 26.05.2020 with the advice “to examine the same for necessary action under intimation to this office”. and has also endorsed a copy of its letter to AIBSNLREA. Meanwhile, the same Grievance lodged in CPENGRAMS has been sent to Gulbarga TD from which Shri Mohare retired. [View posting dated 17.06.2020 in this website to read the DOT letter.](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE FINALLY ISSUES ORDERS EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF BSNLMRS CARDS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES ON PAN INDIA BASIS UPTO 30.09.2020: BSNL Corporate Office has finally accepted the repeated request from AIBSNLREA to further extend the validity of BSNLMRS Cards of the retired BSNL Employees on pan India basis and accordingly has issued the much needed Orders, vide its No. BSNL/Admn./2020/Medical dated 29.06.2020, further extending the validity of the BSNLMRS Cards of the retired employees upto 30.09.2020 or till further Orders. We welcome the Order, but we regret that BSNL Corporate is always found to wake up very late i.e. only after the Circles start taking decisions at their end on such sensitive issues. [View posting dated 29.06.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

BSNL ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS FIELD UNITS REGARDING PAYMENT OF SECOND INSTALMENT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE EMPLOYEES RETIRED UNDER BSNL VRS-2019: Following issue of Orders by DOT conveying sanction of Rs. 3100 Crores for payment of ex-gratia to the BSNL VRS opted employees, BSNL, vide its F. No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/10/2020-ESTAB dated 27.06.2020, has issued instructions to its field units to ensure payment of second instalment of ex-gratia to VRS retirees by 29.06.2020. [View posting dated 27.06.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

DOT ISSUES ORDERS CONVEYING SANCTION OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY FOR PAYMENT OF SECOND INSTALMENT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE BSNL VRS RETIREES: DOT, vide its F. No. 30-4/2019-PSU Affairs (Pt.I) dated 26.06.2020, has issued orders conveying sanction of competent authority for Rupees three thousand twenty one crore (Rs. 3021 crores) to BSNL for ex-gratia payment to BSNL VRS opted employees. DOT has also ordered that the sanctioned fund be consumed by making payments on or before 30.06.2020 and the amount be spent only for the payment of ex-gratia. [View posting dated 26.06.2020 in this website to read the DOT Order.](#)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ISSUES ORDERS REVISING THE TIME LIMIT FOR SUBMISSION OF FINAL CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL EXPENSES UNDER CGHS: Department of Health & Family Welfare has issued Orders, vide its No. 1-60/2017-CGHS/C&P/EHS dated June, 2020, revising the time limit for submission of final claims for reimbursement of medical expenses from existing three months to six months. [View posting dated 26.06.2020 in this website to read the Dept. of Health & Family Affairs Orders.](#)

BSNL AMENDS A FEW MISTAKES IN ITS ORDERS ON BSNLMRS PERTAINING TO RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES, CLARIFIES THAT CGHS COULD BE OPTED AT ANY POINT OF TIME, EXTENDS LAST DATE FOR EXERCISING OPTION UP TO 30.09.2020, EXEMPTS THOSE NOT WILLING TO CHANGE THEIR EARLIER OPTION FROM EXERCISING FRESH OPTION AND ALSO ORDERING EXERCISE OF OPTION IN FUTURE YEARS BY 30th JUNE OF EVERY YEAR– AIBSNLREA’S SUSTAINED EFFORTS BRING SOME RESULTS: BSNL has been forced, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/ dated 19.06.2020, not only to amend its gross mistake in including CGHS as an alternative for outdoor medical claims in its Order dated 08.05.2020 by clarifying now that there will be no cut-off date for switching over to CGHS for the retired employees who may switch over to CGHS at any point of time, but has also extended the date of exercising option up to 30.09.2020, exempting those retired employees from exercising option who do not wish to change their earlier option. BSNL has also ordered that in the coming years, option could be exercised up to the end of 1st quarter i.e.by 30th June of every year. [View posting dated 22.06.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

AFTER KERALA CICRLE, NOW CHENNAI TELEPHONES ALSO EXTENDS THE VALIDITY OF EXISTING BSNLMRS CARDS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES/VRS RETIREES: In our earlier posting in this website on 15.06.2020, we had reported that considering the strict advisory issued by Government of India against travel by Senior Citizens due to Covid-19 pandemic, Kerala Telecom Circle has ordered extension of validity of the existing BSNLMRS Cards issued to the retired BSNL employees up to 30.09.2020. Now Chennai Telephones has also issued Orders extending the validity of BSNLMRS Cards to the retired BSNL employees/VRS retirees till 31.08.2020. [View posting dated 18.06.2020 in this website to read the Chennai Telephones Order.](#)

CGMT, KERALA CIRCLE FURTHER EXTENDS VALIDITY OF BSNLMRS CARDS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES UP TO 30.09.2020 AND CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES ORDERS EXEMPTION OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES FROM SUBMITTING FRESH OPTION IF THEY WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR PREVIOUS OPTION: In view of the strict advisory issued by the Government against travel by Senior Citizens and to remain indoor due to Covid-19 pandemic AIBSNLREA had been requesting BSNL Corporate Office to further extend the

validity of BSNLMRS Cards of the retired BSNL Employees and also to further extend the date for submission of option for outdoor medical claims by the retired BSNL Employees and exempt those retired BSNL employees who want to continue with their earlier option from submitting fresh option. But the BSNL Management is still maintaining a stoic silence and has not responded so far. But CGMT, Kerala Circle, vide his No. SR/GENL/2012-17/93 dated 09.06.2020, has ordered further extension of validity of BSNLMRS Cards issued to the retired BSNL employees up to 30.09.2020. The Circle has also ordered that in case of retired employees who are yet to get BSNL MRS Card, the MRS card issued while they were in service will be valid up to 30.09.2020. Calcutta Telephones, on the other hand, has issued Orders vide its No. ADMN/HQ/2020 dated 01.06.2020 asking only those retired BSNL employees, who are willing to change their previous option, to submit fresh option for outdoor medical claims. [View posting dated 15.06.2020 in this website to read the Kerala Circle and Calcutta Telephones Orders.](#)

RELEASE OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES AGAINST WHOM PERSONAL COURT CASE (OTHER THAN DEPARTMENTAL) ARE PENDING IN THE COURT- DOT ISSUES A FRESH ORDER SUPERSEDING ITS EARLIER CLARIFICATION DATED 24.03.2003 WHICH ALLOWED RELEASE OF DCRG AND FINAL PENSION TO THOSE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AGAINST WHOM JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN INITIATED BY PRIVATE PARTIES: As per an earlier clarification issued by DOT, vide its No. 36-9/2002-Pen(T) dated 24.03.2003, the judicial proceedings initiated against the Government servants by a private person/ agency would not have come in the way of releasing their DCRG and final pension. Now in consultation with DOP&PW, DOT has issued a fresh Order, vide its No. 36-9/2002-Pen(T)Pt dated 05.06.2020, superseding its earlier Order dated 24.03.2003. According to this Order, DOP&PW, while considering the question whether judicial proceedings initiated against a Government servant by the state Police on the basis of complaint by a private party for any action -other than in any official capacity would come under the ambit of Rule-69 of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, has opined that "... after retirement, in case where the judicial proceedings of any act during service (whether in official capacity or otherwise), which could be termed as misconduct under the provisions of CCS (Conduct) Rules are continued after retirement, such judicial proceedings shall come under the purview of Rule 9 and Rule 69 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. This DOT Order, again confirmed vide its No. 36-9/2002-Pen(T)Pt dated 12.06.2020, further says that in regard to applicability of the above in regard to VRS optees under BSNL VRS-2019, there is no ruling for any differential treatment to these retirees. [View posting dated 15.06.2020 in this website to read the DOT Order.](#)

BSNL ISSUES ORDERS FIXING 30.06.2020 AS THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR EXERCISING ONE OPTION OUT OF THREE ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING CGHS AS OFFERED IN ITS EARLIER ORDER DATED 08.05.2020 FOR OUTDOOR MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES: BSNL has issued Orders, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/ dated 10.06.2020, fixing 30.06.2020 as the date on or before which retired BSNL Employees are required to exercise one option out of three options including CGHS to avail outdoor medical claim, as offered earlier vide its Order dated 08.05.2020, while revising the annual ceiling limit for outdoor medical claims. Though it is not explained, how CGHS could be an option for outdoor claims under BSNLMRS when CGHS is a Government Health Care Scheme offering both indoor and outdoor treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries. [View posting dated 11.06.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ISSUES ADVISORY TO ALL HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS EMPANELLED UNDER CGHS IN VIEW OF THE PREVAILANT COVID-19 PANDEMIC: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, vide its F.No. Z15025/18/2020/DIR/CGHS dated 09.06.2020, has issued an advisory to the Health Care Organizations empanelled under CGHS reiterating that all CGHS empanelled Hospitals, which are notified as COVID-Hospitals by State Governments shall provide treatment facilities to CGHS beneficiaries as per CGHS norms, for all CCOVID related treatments. The advisory has also reiterated that all CGHS empanelled hospitals, which are not notified as COVID Hospitals shall not deny treatment facilities/admission to CGHS beneficiaries and shall charge as per CGHS norms, for all other treatment. [View posting dated 10.06.2020 in this website to read the Min. of Health & Family Welfare Order.](#)

BSNL ISSUES ORDERS ALLOWING OUTDOOR CLAIMS UNDER BSNLMRS BASED ON LATEST PRESCRIPTION WHICH IS NOT OLDER THAN SIX MONTHS IN VIEW OF LOCK DOWN DUE TO COVID-19: Conceding the request from AIBSNLREA [View also posting dated 18.05.2020 in this website], BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-ADMN/12(12)/1/2020-ADMN dated 02.06.2020, has issued orders allowing outdoor medical claims with latest prescription which are not older than six months in view of the difficulties being faced to get latest prescription due to lock down ordered in the country in view of Covid-19 pandemic. [View posting dated 09.06.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JUNE 2020

Shri Shrikant B Mohare, Retd CAO, Bagalkot (Karnataka State) has deposited Rupees Five hundred fifty (Rs. 550/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 25.06.2020 towards Life Membership Fee and Admission Fee.

Erode Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees Six hundred (Rs. 600/-) only in the Savings Bank Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 12.06.2020 as CHQ quota for 3 new Life Members.

Thanjavur-Kumbakonam Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees One thousand (Rs. 1000/-) only in the Savings Bank Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 01.06.2020 as CHQ quota for 5 new Life Members.

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

