



Editorial

CAN WE NOT BECOME MATURE?

For the last several months, there are reports from various parts of the country that some fake calls are being received by the pensioners which are originated from some telephone numbers in NCR Delhi asking them to send some money to get release of huge pending balance amount in their GPF accounts. Calls are also received for releasing some unpaid bonus on the LIC policies. These are nothing new. We also receive many mails in our e-mail accounts informing us to disclose our bank account details for payment of huge amount payable to us on account of winning some lotteries or transfer of assets from some unknown donors. Unfortunately, some people fall prey to such allurements and respond to such calls – finally landing themselves in trouble.

It is unfortunate that the pensioners - even at the executive level do not apply their mind before acting in response to such calls. First of all, GPF is not controlled and managed centrally from Delhi. It is the Circles which handle the same. Moreover, at the end of each financial year we used to receive GPF balance sheets indicating the total annual contribution made by us and the interest accrued on them which also indicated the total balance. At the time of retirement, we receive every penny that is due to us on account of GPF contribution. We also get

ourselves satisfied that we did receive the actual amount. Then from where there could be any pending balance now? Let our greed for money not invite more problem for us. As regards bonus of LIC policies, we know that on their maturity, the insurers are paid the entire policy amount including the bonus. And the LIC will never make any phone call, it will write letters at the last known address. But this also never happens, since after payment the policies are treated as closed. The Banks also advise us through SMS or e-mail that we must not disclose our bank account, card details to any one and the banks themselves do not ask the customers to reveal the same to them. Then why should we offer ourselves to be duped?

Those keeping a watch on our website know that our Association had taken up the issue with the CBI Director who in turn sent the case to the Economics Offence Wing. They also referred the matter to the Dy. Commissioner of Police (West). We also know that a gang of people operating such a racket in Noida were also arrested. Then why should we not become wise and protect ourselves?

It is to be noted that such calls are not received only by the retired executives. They are received even by other pensioners

Including the pensioners of other Departments. In fact, the very first two cases that we took up with CBI Director were from the Executives from the stations in Karnataka and Kerala where we had no branch. It appears that this has become an

industry to make easy money. Those receiving such calls may lodge complaints with local Police giving the details.

Let us behave rationally and not allow ourselves to be duped.

PRIME MINISTER'S TRIBUTE TO DR A P J ABDUL KALAM

BHARAT has lost a Ratna, but the light from this jewel will guide us towards APJ Abdul Kalam's dream-destination: India as a knowledge superpower, in the first rank of nations. Our scientist-President -and one who was genuinely loved and admired across the masses - never measured success by material possessions. For him, the counterpoint to poverty was the wealth of knowledge, in both its scientific and spiritual manifestations. As a hero of our defence programme, he shifted horizons; and as a seer of the spirit, he sought to liberate doctrine from the narrow confines of partisan tension to the transcendental space of harmony.

Every great life is a prism, and we bathe in those rays that find their way to us. His profound idealism was secure because it rested on a foundation of realism. Every child of deprivation is a realist. Poverty does not encourage illusions. Poverty is a terrible inheritance; a child can be defeated even before he or she has begun to dream. But Kalamji refused to be defeated by circumstances. As a boy, he had to support his studies by earning money as a newspaper vendor; today, page after page of the same newspapers are filled with his obituary notices. He said that he would not be presumptuous enough to say that his life could be a role model for anybody; but if some poor child living in an obscure and underprivileged social setting found some solace in the way his destiny had been shaped, it could perhaps help such children liberate themselves from the bondage of illusory backwardness and helplessness. He is my marg darshak, as well as that of every such child.

His character, commitment and inspirational vision shine through his life. He was unencumbered by ego; flattery left him cold. He was equally at ease before an audience of suave, globe-trotting ministers and a class of young students. The first thing that struck one about him was that, uniquely, he combined the honesty of a child with the energy of a teenager and the maturity of an adult. He took little from the world, and gave all he could to society. A man of deep faith, he epitomised the three great virtues of our civilization: dama, self-restraint; dana, sacrifice; and daya, compassion.

But this persona was powered by the fire of endeavour. His vision for the nation was anchored in freedom, development and strength. Given our history, freedom had a political context of course; but it also included freedom of the mind and expansion of intellectual space. He wanted India to leap out of the under-developed trough, and eliminate the curse of poverty through inclusive economic growth. Wisely, he suggested that politicians spend only 30% of their time on politics, and 70% on development; a suggestion which he often followed up by calling in MPs

from a state and discussing the socio-economic issues of their region with them. The third pillar, strength, was not born of aggression, but of understanding. An insecure nation will rarely discover the route to prosperity. Strength commands respect. His contributions in our nuclear and space achievements have given India the muscle to be confident of her place in the region and the world.

His memory is best honoured by the creation of new institutions that nurture science and technology, and enable us to find a beneficial equation with the awesome power of nature. Too often, greed makes us predators of our environment. Kalamji saw poetry in a tree, and energy that could be harnessed in water, wind and sun. We should learn to look at our world through his eyes, and with the same missionary zeal.

Human beings can shape their lives through will, persistence, ability and sheer courage. But we have not been given the right to script where we are born, or how and when we die. However, if Kalamji had been offered an option, this is how he would perhaps have chosen to say goodbye: on his feet, and in front of a classroom of his beloved students. As a bachelor, he was childless. But that is wrong. He was a father to every Indian child, teaching, cajoling, urging, exciting, clearing darkness wherever he found it with the radiance of his vision and the passion of his involvement. He saw the future, and showed the way. As I entered the room where his body lay in state, I noticed the painting at the entrance that depicted a few lines from an inspirational book he wrote for children, Ignited Minds. The good that he did will not be interred with his bones, because his children will preserve his memory through their lives and work, and gift it to their children.

[We have reproduced the above write up by Prime Minister paying tribute to Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, a great son of India since it echoes the feelings of every Indian – Ed]

CABINET NOTE ON REVISION OF PENSION WITH FITMENT BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% IDA

We have been time and again telling that current proposal of DOT to allow revision of pension with fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA in its present form as incorporated in its draft cabinet note may result in raising some queries from some Ministries – thus delaying these Ministries to send their final views, since it again includes a proposal which was not approved earlier by DoP&PW and DOE. This relates to payment of enhanced DCRG, CVP to the pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013. Earlier, DOT could not convince DOP&PW and DOE on this issue by its arguments. But now DOT is said to have strong arguments in its favour and therefore included the same proposal in its draft cabinet note. Quite naturally, DOE which earlier sent its views with the approval of its Minister (Finance) rejecting the proposal would like to be fully convinced before it gives its revised views/comments now. Therefore, there is no reason to feel perturbed if DOE asks DOT for some clarifications. This is a normal and routine procedure. We are to understand that there is

no dispute on the question of allowing revision of pension with fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA. This is a settled issue and invariably finds a place in the final cabinet note.

We are to once again make it clear that we always try to give the actual status of the issues and do not try to create unnecessary panic and confusion. We also do not take responsibility for the views and news by others.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

RESTORATION OF BENEFIT OF MEDICAL ALLOWANCE FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT WITHOUT VOUCHER FOR THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES – AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE MATTER AGAIN: In order to examine the proposal to restore the benefit of medical allowance for outdoor treatment without voucher to the retired BSNL Employees, BSNL Corporate Office had called for some information from the Circles In March this year. But since then no progress was reported in the matter. AIBSNLREA has now taken up the matter with Director (HR) to expedite a positive decision. It writes “We would, therefore, request you to kindly intervene in the matter so that an early positive decision is taken to restore the benefit in order to mitigate the hardships being caused to the retired BSNL employees”. *[View posting dated 15.07.2015 in this website to read the letter]*

INORDINATE DELAY IN SETTLEMENT OF AAPEAL AGAINST THE ORDERS IN DISCIPLINARY CASES IN BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED - CASE OF SHRI T K CHITRODA, RETIRED DE, GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA takes up the above case in which the Appeal of Shri T K Chitroda, Retired DE has not been settled by CMD, BSNL despite having received it more than one and half year back. The Association urges Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW “to kindly intervene in the matter so that the CMD, BSNL expeditiously settles this long pending appeal case to render justice to a retired officer”. *[View posting dated 29.07.2015 in this website to read the letter]*

RESPONSE ON AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

DAR&PG FORWARDS AIBSNLREA, A COPY OF THE REPLY BY SECRETARY, DOT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, DAR&PG IN THE MATTER OF INORDINATE DELAY IN FINALIZATION OF A DISCIPLINARY CASE AGAINST SHRI BUDHESWAR MISTRY, RETIRED DE, HAZARIBAGH, BSNL, JHARKHAND: AIBSNLREA was pursuing the above case with all concerned since long. It even took up the issue with Secretary (Pension), Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances who in turn had taken up the matter with Secretary, Department of Telecommunications for early action. Since there was no progress in the matter, AIBSNLREA had again taken up the matter with him which caused Secretary (Pension) to again write to the Secretary, DOT. *[View postings dated 16.3.2015, 25.03.2015, 30.04.2015, 11.5.2015 in this website].* Now the Secretary, DOT has given a reply to him giving detailed position of the case and informing that CGMT, Jharkhand has since issued the final order. He has further informed that “a charge sheet is pending for trial in the CBI Court (RC 13(A)/2006-R) due to which his vigilance clearance is still withheld till finalization of the court case”. *[To read the letters from DAR&PG and DOT, posting dated 20.07.2015 in this website may be viewed].*

DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION DATED 20.04.2015 WHICH WAS ADDRESSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND COPY ENDORSED TO UNION FINANCE MINISTER ON INACTION BY THE OFFICERS OF DOT TO BACK HIS MESSAGE DATED 31.03.2015 TO THE ELDERS, TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & IT: Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance), vide its No. 276/E-V/2015 dated 03.07.2015, has forwarded the endorsed copy of AIBSNLREA's representation dated 20.04.2015 to the Ministry of Communications & IT for appropriate action/redressal of grievances with a request to inform the petitioner. The said representation was addressed to the Prime Minister of India and endorsed to the Union Finance Minister, with reference to PM's message dated 31st March 2015 to the elders conveying Government's commitment to ensuring elders' golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully, wherein the Association informed him that his message was not being backed by the action of the officers of DOT. AIBSNLREA had cited the case of non-settlement of the revision of pension issue for the absorbed BSNL pensioners with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA. To read the PM's message and the AIBSNLREA's representation, posting dated 20.04.2015 in this website may be viewed. Earlier, as already reported, DOP&PW also forwarded the copy of the same representation that was endorsed to MOS (PP) to DOT for appropriate action. [\[To read the letter from DOE, posting dated 12.07.2015 in this website may be viewed\]](#).

DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION DATED 20.04.2015 ADDRESSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON INACTION BY DOT'S OFFICERS TO BACK HIS MESSAGE DATED 31.03.2015 TO THE ELDERS, TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has forwarded AIBSNLREA's representation dated 20.04.2015 to the Department of Telecommunications for appropriate action. The said representation was addressed to the Prime Minister of India, with reference to his message dated 31st March 2015 to the elders conveying Government's commitment to ensuring elders' golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully, wherein the Association informed him that his message was not being backed by the action of the officers of DOT. AIBSNLREA had cited the case of non-settlement of the revision of pension issue for the absorbed BSNL pensioners with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA. To read the PM's message and the AIBSNLREA's representation, posting dated 20.04.2015 in this website may be viewed. [\[To read the letter from DOP&PW, posting dated 11.07.2015 in this website may be viewed\]](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

SPECIAL MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, ERODE BRANCH: A meeting of AIBSNLREA Erode Branch was held on 25.7.2015 at Hotel Kohinoor, Erode to felicitate Shri C.Krishnan, SDE and Shri S.Mahendran, DGM on the eve of their retirement. The meeting was jointly organized with AIBSNLOA Erode District Branch in which these two Executives were the members. Shri K.Sivanandhan, Secretary, AIBSNLREA recollected the days he had been associated with the two retiring executives and welcomed them into the fold of AIBSNLREA. He also spoke about the case of the executives who retired just one day before their date of next increment became due and explained that the case has been taken up by AIBSNLREA both with the 7th CPC as well as with DoPT. He said that non-settlement of retirement benefits of Shri C.Chandrasekaran

DE after his voluntary retirement in March 2015 is being taken up with the Circle administration. Office bearers and members of AIBSNLREA and AIBSNLOA attended the meeting and felicitated the retiring executives. The meeting ended with special dinner.

VARANASI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA MEETS THE GENERAL MANAGER, BSNL, VARANASI: The representatives of Varanasi Branch of AIBSNLREA, comprising of S/Shri Yad Ali, A S Gaur, K C Shrivastava, Rakesh Sinha and others, met Shri K P Singh, General Manager, BSNL, Varanasi on 15.07.2015 and discussed about some of their pressing problems which include cashless treatment in hospitals and network problems in Varanasi. The GM assured them to look into their grievances and take appropriate actions. The report in this regard also appeared in the local edition of Dainik Jagaran - a widely circulated national Hindi daily. *[Posting dated 18.07.2015 in this website may be viewed to read the News paper clipping]*

BI-ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, EAST VIDARBHA (NAGPUR) BRANCH HELD: The bi-annual General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch was held on 11th July, 2015 at Amenity Block, CTO Compound Nagpur under the Chairmanship of Shri N G Talewar President of the Branch. After paying tributes to the departed family members, Shri Arun Deshpande Asst Secretary welcomed all the life members and newly enrolled life members. He briefed the house regarding the efforts being taken by Nagpur Branch to meet the expectation of the BSNL pensioners. Shri P R Bhujbal Branch Secretary highlighted the status of long pending and other important issues being taken up by CHQ. Various representations addressed to concerned ministries by CHQ over the inordinate delay in allowing the benefit of 78.2% IDA merger with basic pay as on 1-1-2007 to the BSNL pensioners retired during 1-10-2000 to 9-6-2013, extension of CGHS facilities to the BSNL retired employees, anomaly in fixation of pension of DOT employees absorbed in BSNL and retired during 1-10-2000 to 31-07-2001 were briefed to the house. Members were informed about the initiative taken by CHQ by addressing representation to Police Commissioner New Delhi regarding fake calls to the Senior Citizens in various circles. A gang of cheaters who had been conning the pensioners for quite some time was recently arrested in Noida. Details about the launching of "Health care Scheme for Sr Citizens" as a part of social security initiatives by the Government funded through unclaimed deposits available with government were highlighted. Members expressed their anxiety over the issue of restoration of Fixed Medical allowance without vouchers. The meeting was attended by 126 members. Three BSNL retired executives joined the association and enrolled as life members of AIBSNLREA. House congratulated all the newly enrolled life members. Shri U B Nikose VP, Dr Palandurkar VP were on the dais. S/Shri Arun Deshpande AS and Bhola Kamble AS took efforts for the grand success of the meeting. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Shri N R Rachkondawar Asst Secretary.

KOLHAPUR BRANCH (MAHARASTRA STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING: Quarterly General Body Meeting of KOLHAPUR Branch was held on 28h June 2015 at Telephone Bhavan Conference Hall in Kolhapur with Shri L M Godi, President in the Chair. 52 members attended the meeting and 6 more new members joined the Association. President welcomed all the members. The new members were presented with bouquet. The new members

were also introduced to the house. President then conveyed greetings and wished a happy long life to the members whose date of date was in June 2015. Then Branch Secretary informed about the issues taken up by the Association with VII CPC, DOPA&PW, CGHS facility to BSNL Retirees and progress made in the issues like Govt.'s Health Care Scheme for Sr. Citizens, fake calls from Nioda regarding payment of so called balance GPF amount and CHQ's complaint and arrest of those who were doing this business. Regarding 78.2% IDA merger issue, detailed picture was given to the members along with likely contents and date of effect and removal of doubts on so called 60:40 confusion. Other issues, like release of re-fixed Seniority Lists No. 1 to 17 of the TES Group B Officers as per the Supreme Court Order, Concession on LL Phone, Income Tax returns, Latest SC judgment on stepping up of pay of pensioners in higher grade to the stage of the pensioners in Jr. Grade were also presented. The house was also informed of the positive response to AIBSNLREA's demand for early completion of disciplinary cases pending against the retired persons for which BSNL has written to all CGMs to complete the process and report to Corporate Office. Then many members shared their experiences and thoughts on various issues. Shri N C Jain, spoke on various services offered by BSNL to the public and requested the members also to spread these information because so many people are not aware of the availability of such facilities. S/Shri S G Kanade, Ellias Fearrao, P S Kulkarni also spoke on their experiences. A video show was arranged on "SHANTI SANDESH" a spiritual Talk by Shri Prem Rawat, an international fame spiritual Leader. The program was arranged by Shri R D Joshi Retired TTA Kolhapur. It was very useful for the all the persons at different stages in life. The vote of thanks was then presented by Shri P S Kulkarni who informed the House that the lunch for the meeting was sponsored by Shri O H Chillal, a member from Sangli. Meeting concluded after the lunch at 14-30 hours.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING JUNE/JULY 2015

East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch deposited Rs 600.00 (Rupees Six hundred) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 15.07.2015 for three additional life members.

Lucknow Branch has deposited Rs 1600.00 (Rupees One thousand Six hundred) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank 13.06.2015 for eight additional life members.

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