



## Editorial

### SENSIBLE THINKING BY SENSIBLE PEOPLE

Seventh Central Pay Commission constituted by the Government of India to recommend mainly the wage revision and pension of the Central Government employees gave an opportunity to all stake holders to submit memorandum on the issues finding place in the terms of reference for the Commission set by the Government. Quite naturally, all concerned employees' unions/associations either independently or collectively have submitted their memorandum. Since absorbed BSNL pensioners are also covered by CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, AIBSNLREA took this opportunity and submitted a memorandum only on pensionary benefits and related issues which has duly been acknowledged by the Pay Commission. A few BSNL Pensioners' Associations, however, have taken the assistance of other Government Pensioners' Associations to present their demands to the Commission.

When we talk about pension, we must understand why pension revision for past employees is ordered while ordering revision of pay scales of the serving employees. Department of Telecommunication in its Cabinet Note for revision of pension of pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners had itself submitted that "Pension is linked to pay drawn at the time of retirement as well as pay drawn by

employee of similar status in future even after retirement. Pension revision of retired employees is linked to pay revision of existing employees. As per judgment of Apex Court in case of D.S. Nakara & Others versus Union of India, the Apex Court ruled that applicability of any liberalized pension scheme should not depend on a fixed date of retirement but the division of pensioners into two classes should be based on some rational principle." This being the guiding principle, the Government Orders revision of pension of past employees whenever the Pay Scales of its serving Employees are revised. Department of Telecommunication and in that sense the Government has also accepted application of same principle for the absorbed BSNL pensioners. That is why though Pay Revision Committees of CPSE Employees do not give any recommendation for revision of pension of past employees, the Government has to initiate action on its own.

Another vital integral part of the pension revision is the application of a fitment formula. We have noticed that the same fitment formula awarded for revision of pay scale for the serving employees are applied for revision of pension of past employees i.e. the pensioners. Otherwise, there will be imbalance between the pension and pay of the employees of similar status. Thus there

cannot be separate “fitment formula” for pensioners and another set formula for the serving employees of the same Organization. In some CPSEs, where Government pension Scheme is in vogue and the IDA pay scales have been introduced, the serving employees of these CPSEs will also be awarded a “fitment formula” along with the revised IDA pay scales. If same “fitment formula” allowed for the serving employees of these CPSEs are not applied for its past employees (pensioners) for revision of their pension, the imbalance in the pension of the past employees and pay of the serving

employees of similar status will be created. This defeats the very rationale for revision of pension. Thus, the “fitment formula” to be recommended for CG Employees vis-à-vis pensioners cannot be implemented in CPSEs exclusively for their past employees i.e. pensioners. Anyhow there are enough ‘sensible’ and wise people who think it otherwise. They proudly announce that they have asked Seventh CPC for “Same fitment formula for pension revision granted to central pensioners should be extended to BSNL retirees”. **One would admit that people who are really ‘sensible’ always think ‘sensible’.**

### **25th MEETING OF SCOVA**

DOP&PW has since notified that the 25th Meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) will be held on 5th September 2014 in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Minister of State for (PP).

### **RESPONSE FROM DOE ON THE PROPOSAL OF DOT FOR REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE AND POST 2007 BSNL PENSIONERS WITH FITMENT BENEFIT OF 78.2% IDA IS STILL AWAITED**

Department of Expenditure is yet to send its final response to DoT’s proposal for revision of pension of pre-2007 and also post 2007 BSNL pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 by extending the fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA. It is learned that the Department of Expenditure is still examining the proposal following receipt of the clarifications, as asked for, from Department of Telecommunication. Meanwhile, Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare is also collecting latest status on the issue since it is an unsettled item in the agenda of the SCOVA meeting which is now scheduled to be held on 5.9.2014. DOP&PW/DOT are to at least provide the latest status on the issue in the said meeting.

### **ACTION ON AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION**

**BSNL RESPONDS TO OUR REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER FOR DEVISING A SPECIAL MECHANISM TO EXPEDITE SETTLEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY/VIGILANCE CASES AGAINST THE RETIRED/ RETIRING OFFICERS:** AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India seeking for his kind intervention for devising a special mechanism to expedite disposal of vigilance/disciplinary cases against the retired/retiring officers. Copy of this representation was

also endorsed to Minister of State (PP) and Secretary (T) (view posting dated 17.06.2014 in this website for the representation). It was also reported that Department of Personnel & Training had forwarded a copy of the said representation to the Department of Telecommunication for appropriate action (view posting dated 17.07.2014 in this website for the DoP&T's letter). Now BSNL (Vigilance Branch) has issued a letter to all BSNL Circles advising them to pursue all such cases to settle them timely. *[To read the BSNL's letter, please view the posting dated 24.08.2014 in this website.]*

## **SEVENTH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE MEMORANDUM BY AIBSNLREA**

AIBSNLREA had submitted a Memorandum to Seventh Central Pay Commission on pensionary benefits and related issues which was duly published in "Second Innings", the e-journal of August 2014 issue of the Association and also posted on 31.07.2014 in this website. The Pay Commission has now acknowledged the receipt of the same. [\*\[To read the CPC's Acknowledgment slip, posting dated 14.08.2014 in this website may be viewed\]\*](#)

## **IMPORTANT ORDERS/INSTRUCTIONS**

### **ADDITIONAL INCREMENTS GRANTED TO MTNL EMPLOYEES AT THE TIME OF THEIR ABSORPTION IN MTNL NOT TO BE COUNTED FOR CALCULATING THE GOVERNMENT'S LIABILITY OF PENSION – CLARIFIES DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION:**

Department of Telecommunication has since clarified that the additional increments granted to the MTNL employees at the time of their absorption in MTNL shall not be counted for calculating the Government's liability of pension. [\*\[To read the DoT's clarification, posting dated 12.08.2014 in this website may be viewed.\]\*](#)

## **ISSUES TAKEN UP**

**AIBSNLREA TAKES UP WITH CMD, BSNL TO ALLOW THE RETIRED BSNL EXECUTIVES OPTION TO HAVE MOBILE CONNECTION IN LIEU OF CONCESSIONAL RESIDENTIAL LANDLINE FACILITY:** AIBSNLREA, citing the case of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, has requested Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to allow the retired BSNL Executives to opt for Mobile connection in place of concessional residential landline facility. *[To read the letter and MTNL's Order, posting dated 07.08.2014 in this website may be viewed]*

## **BRANCHES IN ACTION**

**AIBSNLREA, VARANASI BRANCH (UP STATE) TO HOLD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING AT SARNATH:** Varanasi Branch (UP State) of AIBSNLREA is holding its General Body Meeting at 12 PM on 07-09-2014 at Budha Hotel near Chandra House at Sarnath. All members of the Branch are requested to attend the meeting being held at the above venue at Sarnath. Other retired BSNL Executives from Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Mau, Balia and other nearby areas are also requested to attend the meeting and join the association. For further details, Shri Yad Ali, Branch Secretary, Varanasi may be contacted on Mobile number 9450964144.

**AIBSNLREA, VARANASI BRANCH DISCUSSES THE ISSUE OF REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE AND POST 2007 BSNL PENSIONERS WITH FITMENT BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% DA WITH THE SENIOR OFFICERS IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (PMO) AT VARANASI:** The representatives of Varanasi Branch of AIBSNLREA met the Senior Officers in the Prime Minister's Office at Varanasi on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and discussed at length on the issue of Revision of pension of pre and post 2007 BSNL pensioners, who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013, by extending the fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% DA. The discussion lasted for about an hour and the representatives were given a patient hearing. The representatives also handed over a representation enclosing a copy of AIBSNLREA, CHQ letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2014/9 dated 27.5.2014 on the issue addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister (posting dated 28.05.2014 in this website may be viewed to read the letter). The representation of the Branch along with the CHQ letter was mailed by the PMO at Varanasi to its New Delhi Office. S/Shri Yad Ali, Branch Secretary, Rakesh Kr Sinha, Financial Secretary, S P Tripathi, A S Gaur, K C Srivastava and R S Srivastava were in the delegation.

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF EAST GODAVARY BRANCH (AP STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HELD:** The General body meeting of East Godavari District branch of AIBSNLREA was held at Kakinada under the president ship of Shri S.Satyanarayana, President of this branch at the TRC of KAKINADA on 11.08.2014. The General body paid homage to the sad demises of two life members S/Shri K Maheswara Rao, Retd DE Amalapuram and M Krishna Murty, Retd SDE, Rajahmundry. The General body discussed the various issues including benefit of merger of 78.2% DA, progress in payment of arrears of commutation applying old commutation table who retired between 1-1-2007 to 2-9-2008, implementation of the freezing basic pay for the MRS card to the pre 2007 pensioners towards out door treatment as per the directions of the corporate office, acute delay in the settlement of medical bills of the retired executives. It is decided by general body to take up all the above issues with Senior GMTD Rajahmundry. S/Shri A Booriah, KS Prakasa Rao, A Kodanda Rao, KSS Bhavachari, P RamaKrishna addressed the General body. The GB has unanimously appreciated the efforts made by the GS and expresses its solidarity to the CHQ of AIBSNLREA. The members have participated in the campaign for individual Appeal to PM/MOC call given by the CHQ. The

General body approved the accounts submitted by the Finance Secretary Shri KBS Naidu for the period 20-08-2011 to 10-08-2014. A New body, consisting of 20 members, was elected under the chairmanship of Sri KV Raghava Rao DGM (Retd). S/Shri G V Ramakrishna, Retd DGM, GS VSS Varaprasad, Retd Sr SDE and KBS Naidu, Retd Sr SDE were elected as the President, Secretary and Finance Secretary of the Branch. Six new life members joined the Association taking the total life membership of the Branch to 126. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Shri Vara Prasad GSVSS which was followed by lunch.

## **OBITUARY**

\*Shri R.R.Joshi, Retd DGM and President of Hubli-Dharwad Branch (Karnataka) of AIBSNLREA passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2014 after a sudden and brief illness at Mysore where he had gone to see an ailing friend. He was immediately got admitted in the hospital there, but could not survive. He was aged 70 years. He was a veteran trade union leader and also an very active leader in the then JETA and TESA. His cremation took place at his native place in Ranebennur which was attended by large number of the BSNL employees of Dahrwad-Hubli area. He was very popular among all sections of the employees and well respected by one and all. The members of AIBSNLREA Karnataka Hubli Branch later assembled at Hubli and as a mark of respect to the departed soul observed one minute's silence. The members also passed a resolution conveying their heartfelt condolence and praying God for his soul to rest in peace and give strength to the bereaved family to overcome the grief.

\*Shrimati Ambikaben Ambalal Patel, wife of Shri A B Patel, State Secretary, Gujarat State Branch of AIBSNLREA expired on 7th August 2014. The Associations joins the family members of Shri A B Patel to mourn the sad demise of Shrimati Patel. Let her soul rest in peace.

### **CHQ QUOTA RECEIVED FROM BRANCHES DURING AUGUST 2014**

- Delhi South West Branch of AIBSNLREA has paid Rupees five hundred fifty (Rs 550.00) only for the life membership and admission fee of one new life member on 27.08.2014.
- East Godavari Branch (AP State) of AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees One thousand five hundred (Rs 1500.00) only in Karur Vysya Bank on 18.08.2014 for quota and admission fee of five new life members.
- Hubli-Dharwad Branch (Karnataka State) of AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees One thousand (Rs 1000.00) only in Karur Vysya Bank on 05.08.2014 as quota for five new life members.

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