



Editorial

PROCESS TO GET NOD FOR A FINAL CABINET NOTE FOR PENSION REVISION MOVES ON

The exercise to extend the benefit of revised pension with fitment benefit of 78.2% IDA to the pre-2007 and post 2007 BSNL pensioners who retired before 10.06.2013 reached the penultimate stage when Department of Telecommunications prepared a draft Cabinet Note and circulated the same for inter-ministerial consultation. During this exercise which took longer time in DOT's own Internal Finance Unit, several pundits had fallen back to their pet issue of sharing of expenditure between DOT and BSNL to declare it as the stumbling block for the progress of the case, though it was not. We had already informed that the delay was due to re-inclusion of the proposal for payment of DCRG, CVP and Leave encashment benefit etc to the post 2007 BSNL retirees in the draft proposal which was earlier not agreed to by DOE and not for any other reason as was being claimed.

Once the draft Cabinet Note was concurred by Internal Finance, the Establishment Branch of Department of Telecommunications made no delay to circulate the said draft cabinet Note to all concerned Departments/Ministries for their comments. Thereafter, we reported that DOT had received the final views/comments on its proposal on pension revision to prepare the final Cabinet Note from all the concerned Ministries except Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Department of Expenditure was stated to have asked for certain clarifications/information which were

being examined by Establishment Branch in consultation with the Internal Finance for sending the reply to the Department of Expenditure. We also reported that Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare had agreed to draft cabinet Note 'subject to approval by Department of Expenditure'. It may be noted that on the earlier occasion when the DOT had sent the proposal in its old form before preparing the draft Cabinet Note, DOP&PW had agreed to that proposal also on the condition that DOE was to agree to that proposal. Thus, as in the earlier occasion, DOP&PW left the proposals in the draft Cabinet Note to be decided by DOE only. Thus, there was no reason to get disturbed.

Now Department of Telecommunications has officially communicated that "As per advice of Deptt. of Expenditure, a draft Cabinet Note has been prepared for revision of pension/family pension of BSNL IDA pensioners/family pensioners by allowing the benefits of merger of 50% DA/DR effectively amounting to 78.2% and has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultation. On receipt of the comments from concerned Departments/Ministries, proposal has been resubmitted."

Thus the ongoing developments confirm that the matter is reaching a decisive stage and the final Cabinet Note may not take much longer time to land in Cabinet Secretariat unless any new development takes place.

DOP&PW TO HOLD 27th MEETING OF SCOVA

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has since notified that the 27th Meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) will be at 11 Hours of 29th September, 2015 in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Minister of State for (PP). The actual venue of the meeting will be notified later on. Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the last meeting and the new items to be discussed in the coming meeting are yet to be circulated. The Action Taken Report will throw light on the latest status on pension revision, anomaly in the pension of the BSNL pensioners who retired between 1.1.2000 and 31.07.2001 and benefit of CGHS facilities to BSNL pensioners.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

INORDINATE DELAY IN SETTLEMENT OF APPEAL CASE OF SHRI T K CHITRODA, RETIRED DE, GUJARAT: AIBSNLREA has again taken up the case with Secretary (Pension), Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare since BSNL has not settled the appeal case despite DOP&PW forwarding our representation to DOT. Instead, Gujarat Telecom Circle has sent a reply which is irrelevant to the issue that was taken up with DOP&PW. AIBSNLERA writes "...The above clearly indicates how insensitive and careless are Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited about the issues involving the pensioners. Ours was not a case to know who is to deal with pensionary benefit case of the affected retired employee but was to get his Appeal Case pending for long period with the Chief Vigilance Officer/Chairman & Managing Director of BSNL expeditiously settled. Therefore, it is surprising how our representation on a different subject duly forwarded by DOP&PW to Department of Telecommunications landed in a subordinate office of BSNL which has nothing to do with the Appeal Case". *[View posting dated 31.08.2015 in this website to read both the letters].*

ENTITLEMENT FOR MEDICAL BENEFITS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL PENSIONERS--AIBSNLREA REQUEST DG, HEALTH SERVICES TO SUPPLY THE ORDERS: AIBSNLREA has requested Director General, Health Services, GOI to supply the copies of any Office Orders issued on the issue of entitlement of medical benefits to the Government pensioners who are granted only provisional pensioners. *[View posting dated 24.08.2015 in this website to read the letter].*

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF INORDINATE DELAY TO SETTLE THE REGULARISATION OF SUSPENSION PERIOD AND THE APPEAL FOR QUASHING OF ORDER FOR COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF SHRI S N GAJBE, RETD SDE, CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE WITH SECRETARY (PENSION): AIBSNLREA has taken up the above case with Secretary (Pension) in the background of the BSNL's reply stating that the case pertains to DOT and it is the DOT which has to settle the case. Secretary (Pension) has been urged to intervene for early settlement of these cases. In this regard postings dated 19.05.2015 and 07.08.2015 in this website on the same issue may also be viewed. *[View posting dated 20.08.2015 in this website to read the letter].*

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION

INORDINATE DELAY IN SETTLEMENT OF "REGULARIZATION OF SUSPENSION PERIOD" AND QUASHING OF ORDER FOR COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF SHRI S N GAJBE, RETD SDE: The above issue was taken up AIBSNLREA with Member (Services), Telecom Commission, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2015/20 dated 18.05.2015 *[view posting dated 19.05.2015 to read the letter].* Now the General Manager,

Chandrapur SSA, Maharashtra Circle has sent a status report stating that Shri Gajbe is being treated as a DOT employee and his pensionary benefits will be settled by DOT only. *[View posting dated 07.08.2015 in this website to read the letter]*

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

DOP&PW ISSUED FURTHER ORDERS FOR ISSUE OF IDENTITY CARDS WITH THE HELP OF PVC THERMAL PRINTER TO THE EMPLOYEES RETIRING FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES: In continuation of its earlier order (view posting dated 14.08.2015 in this website to view the order), DoP&PW has now issued a revised order advising issue of Identity Cards to the pensioners retiring from Government offices in Delhi and other Metropolitan/big cities be printed with the help of PVC Thermal Printer with 600 DPI resolutions. *[View posting dated 25.08.2015 in this website for the Order]*

DEPARTMENT OF PENSION & PENSIONERS' WELFARE ISSUES REVISED FORMAT FOR ISSUE OF INDETTY CARDS TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has since issued an order vide its No. 41-21/2000-P&PW (D) dated 12.08.2015 reiterating that Government Pensions should invariably be issued Identity Cards. It has also revised the format to include Aadhaar Number, if available. *[View posting dated 14.08.2015 in this website for the Order]*

BSNL ISSUES MODIFIED POLICY FOR RENTING/LEASING OUT OF ITS VACANT STAFF QUARTERS: BSNL has issued a modified policy, vide its No. 482-09/2009-BG/Vol.II (Pt.I) dated 06.08.2015, for renting out/leasing out of its vacant staff quarters to Central/State Government, CPSU/State PSU employees and outside Reputed Private Agencies. The orders are applicable for the family members of BSNL employees and retired DOT/BSNL employees also. *[View posting dated 09.08.2015 in this website for the Order]*

BRANCHES IN ACTION

WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA MEETS CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES: A delegation from West Bengal State Branch of AIBSNLREA, comprising of President, State Secretary, Vice President & ex President Sri A K Basuroy, met the new CGM Calcutta Telephones on 18.08.2015 and welcomed him. They also handed over a list of unsettled long pending deferred option cases of the Executives and requested for his personal intervention for their early settlement. It has also been informed by the State Secretary that Principal CCA Kolkata has issued a notification through the leading dailies of Kolkata on 12th August 2015 asking for submission of Pensioner's updated data by the Telecom/BSNL pensioners residing in the State of West Bengal & Sikkim. State Branch has already informed the members through SMS and personal contact and distributed copy of the format among the members present in a meeting held on 18th August 2015. BSNL Pensioners, if desired, may contact Branch Secretary and other Office Bearers of AIBSNLREA for further details.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT BRANCH HELD: The Annual General body meeting of AIBSNLREA, East Godavari District Branch (AP State) was held on 17-08-2015 in the Conference Hall, Sanchar Bhavan Rajahmundry. The meeting started at 09.30 hours under the president ship of Shri GV Rama Krishna. The General Body first paid homage to Bharata Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The General also paid tributes to those who lost their lives in the month of July 2015 during Maha Pushkarams of the Holy River Godavari. Shri GSVSS Vara Prasad District Secretary welcomed the members. He also explained various issues and their position including pay anomaly in

fixation of pension of DoT employees absorbed in BSNL during 1-10-2000 to 31-07-2001, inordinate delay of 78.2% in allowing the benefit to the pre and post 2007 retired employees. DS also mentioned about the fake calls and reminded about the CHQ's letter to CBI. S/Shri CB Sarma, A Raja Gopala Rao, Subrahmanyam, B Ananda Rao, RSN Murty, KSS Bhavachari enlightened the need of a separate retired executives association. Many members actively participated in the discussion. District President Sri Ramakrishna invited GMTD A Srivasa Rao as the Chief Guest. DGM (F&A), AGM (admin) also attended the meeting. The Special Chief Guest Shri V Swamy 82 years was honored with presentation of bouquet, garland and shawl by the members along with GMTD, DGM (F&A). GMTD, DGM (F&A). They also felicitated four Chief guests viz., S/Shri A Booraiah, CB Sarma, C Ramakrishna and K N Sastry who attained 75 years with bouquet, garland and shawl. The District association also felicitated Sri Koteswarudu SDE (retired), Gunturu with bouquet, garland and shawl who was responsible for the getting the benefit regarding the recasting of pension for post 2007 BSNL pensioners who retired between 01-01-2007 to 02-09-2008. All the members participated very enthusiastically. GMTD who was overwhelmed by seeing the gathering of such huge number of retired executives in the meeting and expressed his happiness to be among such a huge gathering. All the members were introduced to GMTD. The District secretary Shri GSVSS Vara Prasad brought some important issues of pensioners like undue delay in settlement of medical bills to the notice of GMTD Rajahmundry and requested GMTD and DGM (F&A) to find a mechanism to issue some kind of acknowledgement of the receipt of the medical bills. DS has also expressed about the members displeasure regarding abnormal delay in empanelment of hospitals in Rajahmundry. GMTD and DGM (F&A) shared the feelings with the members and assured that they are committed to find solutions. The DS expressed his sincere thanks to DGM (F&A) who has used his good offices with Pr CCA Tamil Nadu in the settlement of Payment of commutation of arrears to those who retired during 01-01-2007 to 02-09-2008 by applying old commutation table of our STR members. The District secretary thanked specially to S/Shri Ch Gandhi, G Ramakrishna, KBS Naidu, A Kodanda Rao, G Ammiraju, A Rajagopala Rao, M Nagabhushanam, G Sundara Rao, P Trimurtulu, KSS Bhavachari and S Satyanarayana for their immense support in the day to day organizational matters. The meeting was attended by 75 members. 7 new Life Members joined making the total strength of the Branch to 147. The meeting ended with vote of thanks and reciting National Anthem. Thereafter, lunch was arranged at hotel SURYA.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING AUGUST 2015

Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees Two thousand (Rs 2000.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 22.08.2015 towards CHQ quota for ten (10) new life members.

East Godavari Branch (Andhra Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees One thousand seven hundred fifty (Rs 1700.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 17.08.2015 towards CHQ quota and admission fee for seven (7) new life members.

Indore Branch (Madhya Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees One thousand Eight hundred (Rs 1800.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 10.08.2015 towards CHQ quota for nine (9) new life members.

Udaipur Branch (Rajasthan State) has deposited Rupees Four hundred (Rs 400.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 08.08.2015 towards CHQ quota for two (2) new life members.

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