



## *Editorial*

### REVISION OF PENSION

The issue of revision of pension of the absorbed BSNL Pensioners, who retired before 1.1.2007 and also those who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013, following the decision of the Government to allow fitment benefit in pay fixation by merger of 50% IDA effectively amounting 78.2% IDA to the CPSE Employees in place of 68.8% IDA, as ordered earlier, is hanging on fire for a very long period. It is more than two years since DOT issued a Presidential Directive to implement the said Orders of DPE on revised fitment benefit for the BSNL employees. The Presidential Directive issued by DOT for implementation of DPE Order and consequent issue of revised pay fixation order and its implementation by BSNL for its employees gave rise to several controversies and irregularities. These have not been addressed till this date. Ultimately, DOT finally agreed to extend the revised fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA to the BSNL pensioners but in its own way. Its handling of the issue was half-hearted and ill-directed. After much dilly dallying, it first sent a proposal to DOP&PW which gave its nod to it but wanted the same to be sent to DOE for concurrence. DOE, in turn, agreed to the proposal for revision of pension but rejected the proposal for payment of differences in DCRG, CVP and leave encashment to those employees who retired between 1.1.2007

and 9.6.2013. It also got the proposal, as partly agreed by it, approved by the Minister of Finance. DOE further advised DOT to get the approval of the Cabinet to the proposal as concurred by it. DOT, instead of utilizing these views/comments of DOP&PW and DOE on its pension revision proposal and incorporating the same in its Cabinet Note, once again sought the comments/views of both DOP&PW and DOE and others through a separate draft Cabinet Note. Thus the time spent by DOT in its first exercise to send a proposal to DOP&PW and then to DOE to get approval became infructuous and a mere waste.

Meanwhile, though DOP&PW again agreed to the proposal, as in the draft Cabinet Note, DOE raised some queries. It will be wrong to assume that DOE raised queries in connection with revision of pension, since it had already cleared the proposal on earlier occasion duly approved by the Minister of Finance. However, the DOT was taking its own time to send the reply. This caused DOP&PW, in the last meeting of SCOVA held on 13.10.2015, to advise DOT to send the reply to DOE by 31.10.2015.

Now, as we understand, DOT has decided to send the final Cabinet Note on the above issue to the Cabinet Secretariat by

incorporating the views/comments received from different Ministries and addressing the points raised by DOE in its reply to DOT's draft Cabinet Note which was earlier sent by DOT to all the concerned Ministries/Departments including DOE for their comments/views. The points raised by DOE will thus be addressed in the Cabinet Note itself. Accordingly, a draft proposal was submitted by DOT and the competent

authority, after due deliberation, is said to have advised to submit the fair copy of the proposal and process the file for submission to MOC&IT for his approval. If no other new points are raised, it is expected that the final Cabinet Note will be sent to the Cabinet Secretariat, hopefully before this month end. Having burnt our fingers many times earlier, we shall have to wait to find the result of this move.

## **SUBMISSION OF LIFE CERTIFICATE**

This is the reminder to all the Pensioners/Family Pensioners that they are required to submit their Life Certificate to their respective pension disbursing Bank/Post Offices by this month (November). The Life Certificate can be submitted either through newly introduced Aadhar based Digital Life Certificate System or through the old system of filling up one prescribed form. From this year, the Government has introduced a new system to issue receipt to the pensioners/family pensioners in acknowledgement of having received their Life Certificate.

## **ISSUES TAKEN UP**

**AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE OF ABNORMAL DELAY IN SETTLEMENT OF MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT CASES OF THE BSNL PENSIONERS WITH DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (HR), BSNL highlighting the problems of the BSNL Pensioners in getting their claims for reimbursement of both indoor and outdoor medical bills settled on time. The Association has also drawn her attention to the existing instructions issued by BSNL on the subject and sought her personal intervention in the matter, so that all medial reimbursement cases of the BSNL Pensioners are settled in accordance with the existing instructions on the subject and more importantly timely reimbursement is ensured. *[To read the letter, please view posting dated 22.10.2015 in this website].*

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CMD, BSNL REQUESTING TO EXTEND THE FACILITY OF FREE NIGHT CALLS TO THE RETIRED BSNL EXECUTIVES:** AIBSNLREA has written a letter to the Chairman & Managing Director of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited requesting to extend the facility of free night calls, which has been allowed to its customers, to its retired Executives. *[To read the letter, please view posting dated 21.10.2015 in this website].*

**AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE OF APPOINTMENT OF NODAL OFFICERS TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE INDIVIDUAL AND COMMON GRIEVANCES OF THE BSNL PENSIONERS:** AIBSNLREA

takes up with Director (HR), BSNL for appointment of Nodal Officers in BSNL Units including Corporate Office to deal with exclusively the individual and common grievances of the BSNL pensioners. AIBSNLREA says that at present “...the BSNL Pensioners are also facing immense problems in getting their individual grievances resolved. They are to run from pillar to post to pursue the cases, but in most of the cases no one in administration takes them seriously. As a result the grievances are either badly delayed or remain unsettled”. *[To read the letter, please view posting dated 21.10.2015 in this website].*

**AIBSNLREA REQUESTS DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL TO CAUSE ISSUE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE DOP&PW OMs REGARDING ISSUE OF IDENTITY CARDS TO BSNL PENSIONERS:**

AIBSNLREA has requested Director (HR), BSNL to cause issue of instructions for issue of Identity Cards to the BSNL Pensioners in accordance to the guidelines as contained in Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare OM No. OM 41/21/2000-P&PW(D) dated 12.08.2015. AIBSNLREA has pointed out that the said OM not only prescribed specifications for issue of Identity cards, but also has prescribed the material on which the Identity Cards are to be printed. The guidelines also say that no hand written cards are to be issued. The Association writes “..... we earnestly request you to kindly cause issue of instructions to all concerned BSNL Units to strictly follow the guidelines and specifications issued by DOP&PW for issue of Identity Cards to the BSNL Pensioners. All the BSNL Units may further be advised to replace all the hand-written Identity Cards issued so far”. *[To read the letter, please view posting dated 19.10.2015 in this website].*

## **GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS**

**BSNL REFERS TO ITS OLD ORDER AND ADVISES ALL CGMs TO SETTLE THE INDOOR EXPENDITURE CLAIMS OF THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THEIR RECEIPT:** BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/30-6/15 dated 23.10.2015 has drawn the attention of all its Chief General Managers to its earlier instructions issued vide No. BSNL(Admn.I/1(Pt) dated 23.08.2006 (view BSNLMRS Section of “Important Orders” Page of this website) and has advised them to settle the indoor expenditure claims of the retired employees within one month of their receipt. It may be recalled that AIBSNREA had last taken up the issue of abnormal delay in settlement of both indoor and outdoor reimbursement claims of the BSNL pensioners with Director (HR) on 21.10.2015 and posted the letter in this website on 22.10.2015. *[View posting dated 28.10.2015 in this website for the BSNL Order].*

**INCREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.10.2015– ORDERS ISSUED:** Department of Public Enterprises, Government of India has since issued Orders, vide its No. W-02/0002/2014-DPE(WC)–GL-XVII/15 dated 08.10.2015, increasing the IDA w.e.f. 01.10.2015 by 5.3% for the Board level and below Board level posts including non-unionised supervisors in CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. The present rate of IDA is now 107.9%. DPE has similarly issued Orders, vide its No. W-02/0004/2014-DPE(WC)–GL-XVI/15 dated 08.10.2015, increasing the IDA w.e.f. 01.10.2015 by 8.9% for the Board level and below Board level posts including non-unionised supervisors in CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. The

present rate of IDA for such CPSEs is 251%. [View postings dated 09.10.2015 in this website for the DPE Orders].

**DEPARTMENT OF PENSION & PENSIONERS' WELFARE ISSUES THE ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR) OF THE 26<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF SCOVA – STATUS OF THREE ISSUES PERTAINING TO ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS FINDS A MENTION:** Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 42/07/2015-P&PW(G) dated 08.10.2015, has since issued the Action Taken Report (ATR) of the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SCOVA which includes the status of the following three issues pertaining to the absorbed BSNL pensioners : (1) Anomaly in fixation of pension to DOT Employees absorbed in BSNL, who retired between 1.10.2000 and 31.07.2001, (2) Merger of 78.2% IDA with basic pension benefit to the absorbed BSNL pensioners, (3) Extension of CGHS facilities to retired BSNL employees – Issue of follow up order by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & fixation of rates of contribution and ward entitlement by DOT. The viewers are requested to read the Serial No.5, 6 and 11 of the Action Taken Report against which the detailed status of the above stated three issues are given. The latest official status as on the day of discussion i.e. 13.10.2015 would be known after the Minutes of the meeting is issued in due course of time. [View postings dated 08.10.2015 in this website for the DOP&PW OM].

## BRANCHES IN ACTION

**AIBSNLREA, AMBALA BRANCH HOLD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:** A general body meeting of Ambala Branch (Haryana State) was held on 25.10.2015 under the chairmanship of Shri P C Chauhan to elect a new set of office bearers since the existing body had completed its tenure. 23 members of the branch attended the meeting. Branch Secretary briefed the members about the achievements of the branch in resolving the issues relating to the members. He also discussed about the latest status of 78.2% DA merger case for which the members expressed their deep anguish over the delay in settling the issue by DOT and BSNL in spite of all best efforts by all the pensioners associations. Financial Secretary placed the Statement of Accounts of the Branch in the house which was adopted unanimously. A new set of officer bearers of the Branch was later elected unanimously with Shri P C Chauhan as the Branch President, Shri J C Gupta as Branch Secretary and Shri K C Pandwar as Financial Secretary.

**ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, DHARWAD DISTRICT (HUBLI) BRANCH HELD:**

The Annual General Body Meeting of All India Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Retired Executives' Association, Dharwad District (Hubli) Branch, Karnataka was held on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 at the Conference Hall, BSNL Sadan in the premises of GMTD, Hubli. Shri B G Kanavi, President chaired the meeting. Shri A. S. Parwatikar, Branch Secretary welcomed the members and addressed the gathering. There were discussions mainly on merger of 50% of DA effectively amounting to 78.2% for fitment benefit in the revised IDA pay scales and other issues. He highlighted the current issues taken up by CHQ in the interest of pensioners. Various correspondences made by GS, CHQ AIBSNLREA on pension/family pension revision and medical facilities, etc were mainly highlighted and appreciated by all the members. All the members expressed that General Secretary AIBSNLREA should take up the matter of 78.2% on war footing so that at this stage it will not be delayed for any kind of reasons by the authorities. Also a resolution was

passed to communicate to the GMTD HUBLI and also CGMT Bangalore for empanelment of good and reputed hospitals for the purpose of BSNLMRS facility at Hubli-Dharwad. About 65 members participated in the meeting. Shri V.V.Katti, Financial Secretary read out the finance statement. Shri B G Kanavi, President addressed the members and highlighted the recent developments as regards to the retired BSNL officers. Shri G B Angadi highlighted the recent developments as regards 78.2% issue. The election of office bearers for the period 2015-16 was on the agenda. The house unanimously passed the resolution that the existing body should continue. The same was adopted. Ten new retired officers were enrolled in the meeting and were extended warm welcome by all other members of the association, Hubli Branch. Shri N K Gandhigawad, who retired as DGM, Hubli last month, joined our association and enlightened members regarding latest developments in BSNL. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair and members by Shri G B Angadi.

**AIBSNLREA, LUCKNOW BRANCH HOLDS QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING:** Quarterly General Body meeting of Lucknow Branch (UP State) was held on 9-10-2015 in the Recreation Club at the Telephone Exchange campus, Kaiserbagh. 58 members attended the meeting. Four new life members also got enrolled. Members expressed their resentment due to abnormal delay in settlement of 78.2% IDA merger issue and pay anomaly cases. State Secretary R.S.Arora, State Finance Secretary Ambika Singh, Branch Secretary S.P Singh, Organizing Secretary Radhey Shyam and A.K.Srivastav, Finance Secretary of Lucknow Branch discussed various issues with the members. S/Shri R.K.Tandon, P.K.Dixit and Sangamji Pandey also offered their views on several issues. The meeting also paid homage to the departed member of the branch Shri Guru Prasad, Retired SDE by observing two minutes silence.

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT BRANCH (AP STATE) HELD:** Quarterly General body meeting of AIBSNLREA, East Godavari District Branch was held on 15-10-2015 at RL Grand Hotel, Kakinada under the president ship of Shri GV Rama Krishna. Meeting started with the prayer by Shri KS Prakasha Rao. Shri GSVSS Vara Prasad, District Secretary welcomed the members. The President touched upon all the issues in his opening remarks. DS has explained various issues and their status which include pay anomaly in fixation of pension of DoT employees absorbed in BSNL during 1-10-2000 to 31-07-2001, inordinate delay in allowing the fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA to the pre and post 2007 retired employees. DS also mentioned about the delay in settling medical bills. Many members have expressed their anguish in respect of postal authorities for not including the increased DA even after 6 months after the release of the orders. S/Shri CH Gandhi, A Raja Gopala Rao, A Kodanda Rao, Chalapati Rao KV, Raghavarao KV, Ramakrishna P, Sundara Rao G, Babu Rao T, Sarveswara Rao K, KBS Naidu, Acharyulu MVR enlightened the house and stressed the need to support CHQ in holding AIC. Many members actively participated in the discussions and suggested to go for legal battle due to undue delay in settling 78.2% DA merger in consultation with CHQ. District President Shri GV Ramakrishna invited Shri Anantam DGM, Kakinada to address the meeting. DS has also explained the status of empanelment of hospitals in the SSA. DS explained how the present GM is taking interest in settling the medical bills of retired employees. The association is having cordial relations with management. The General body also unanimously passed few resolutions. The District Secretary then thanked specially S/Shri G Ramakrishna and S Satyanarayana for their immense support in hosting the General body meeting in a grand manner. The DS also thanked all the members for their valuable suggestions in the organizational matters. The meeting was attended by 54 members. 3 new Life Members also joined the Association taking

the total strength of the Branch to 150. The meeting ended with vote of thanks and National Anthem. This was followed by a Lunch.

**VARANASI BRANCH (UP STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HOLD ITS BI ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** Bi annual conference of AIBSNLREA, Varanasi Branch was held on 07/10/2015 at Vaibhav Hotel, Varanasi Cantt. Members of adjoining areas of Varanasi also attended the meeting in large numbers. Shri K P Singh, General Manager, Varanasi, BSNL graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his speech, he assured the members that the local administration will settle their medical claims and make payment of other allowances as per rules and on time. He also assured to favourably consider the demand for cashless treatment in hospitals. During the meeting, ten (10) new members were enrolled as Life Members of the Branch. S/Shri B.N Singh, Yad Ali and R.K Sinha were elected unanimously as the President, Secretary and Financial Secretary of the branch. Other elected Office bearers are as follows :- Vice Presidents : S/Shri S.P Tripathi and D B Gupta, Asst. Branch Secretary: S/Shri A S Gaur and P Chandra, Organizing Secretary: S/Shri Hari Om and R.S Srivastava, Assistant Financial Secretary: S/Shri K C Srivastava and D S Yadav. In addition S/Shri M.W.U. Khan, Akhtar Hussain, P D Ram, B Prasad, S P Dubey, R B Tiwari, P N Maurya and K N Mishra were elected as Executive Members of the Branch. Shri D.N Ram was nominated as the Auditor. The Conference was covered by the local edition of Dainik Jagran and AAJ dailies.

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AKOLA BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA:** AIBSNLREA, Akola Branch (Maharashtra State) held its General Body meeting on 12-09-2015 at Conference Hall, GMT Akola office. Twenty six (26) members were present in the meeting and three new Life Members were also enrolled in the Branch. After enrollment of these members, the membership of Akola branch has increased to 50 members. Shri A.G. Nema Branch Secretary welcomed all the members including the new members. Branch Secretary apprised about the latest information regarding the case of merger of 50% I.D.A. effectively amounting to 78.2%. The members were unhappy over the undue delay in this matter. The house was also apprised about the proposed All India conference of AIBSNLREA at Ahemdabad. Two members showed their willingness to attend AIC. Branch secretary informed regarding the meeting held with GMT Akola during August 2015 in which all the pending issues, particularly issue of delay in reimbursement of medical claims were discussed. The meeting was fruitful and medical bill issue was settled within 15 days of this meeting. BSNL has launched scheme of free LL calls to any network between 21.00 Hrs to 7.00 Hrs but same facility is not extended to FSTCs (provided to pensioners). Some members also demanded free calls and free Data to some extent on BSNL mobiles available with pensioners. President Shri V.V. Bhagat highlighted the importance of the Association and urged the house to help in enrollment of new retired executives.

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, KOLHAPUR BRANCH:** Quarterly General Body Meeting of Kolhapur (Maharashtra State) Branch was held on 4th October, 2015 in Telephone Bhavan Conference Hall with Shri L M Godi, President in the Chair. 54 members attended the meeting and one more new member joined the Association. President welcomed all the members including the new member Shri I J Mujawar. The House then paid respectful tributes to Late Shri APJ Abdul Kalam, Ex. President and a great son of India by observing two minutes silence. Then Secretary Shri D K Joshi gave a brief account of the status of Revision of Pension with 78.2% IDA merger and replied the queries made by the members. He also reported about VII CPC and the next 3rd PRC. He further mentioned about various orders issued by the

Government concerning the pensioners like grievances of pensioners, Aadhar Card linkage to Pensioners PPOs for avoiding physical submission of Life Certificate etc. He then briefed the members about the developments in BSNL/MTNL, expansion of various Services including Mobile, BB and LL. The members then shared their ideas on other subjects. They congratulated the members of West Bengal State Branch, Kolkata for their gesture in donating Rs. 50000/- to PM's Relief Fund. Shri SG Kanade, a Sr. member of the Branch raised the issue of severe draught situation in Marathawada Area of Maharashtra State and urged everyone to rise to the occasion and assist the people who are suffering. The members responded positively and an amount of Rs. 10,000 was collected on the spot for remittance to NAM Foundation, Pune. Thereafter Shri Hiremath, on behalf of the sponsorer of the day's meeting M/s Quality Investments, Kolhapur, gave a presentation on systematic investment plans with special reference to mutual funds, fixed deposits and other investment instruments which are suitable for the Sr. citizens especially for Tax payers. Then Shri PS Kulkarni proposed vote of thanks to all the members and M/s Quality Investments for their gesture in sponsoring the meeting. The meeting was followed by a lunch offered by the sponsor.

## STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING OCTOBER 2015

**East Godavari Branch** (Andhra Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees Seven hundred and fifty (Rs 750.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 17.10.2015 towards CHQ quota/admission fee for three (3) new life members.

**Varanasi Branch** (Uttar Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees Two thousand (Rs 2000.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 14.10.2015 towards CHQ quota for ten (10) new life members.

**Kanpur Branch** (Uttar Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees Two hundred (Rs 200.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 13.10.2015 towards CHQ quota for ten (10) new life members.

**Hubli Branch** (Karnataka State) has deposited Two thousand (Rs 2000.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 07.10.2015 towards CHQ quota for ten (10) new life members.

**Akola Branch** (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees Six hundred (Rs 600.00) only in CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 05.10.2015 towards CHQ quota for three (3) new life members.

**BRANCHES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM THROUGH E-MAIL, SMS OR PHONE CALL TO CHQ DETAILS OF ANY AMOUNT DEPOSITED BY THEM IN OUR BANK ACCOUNT. THIS WILL HELP CHQ TO KEEP RECORD OF THE SAME AND ISSUE THE RECEIPT.**