



Editorial

DOT BACK-STABS ABSORBED BSNL EMPLOYEES

In April this year, DOT issued an Order for payment of pension by Government to the MTNL absorbed employees whose pension so far was being paid by MTNL pending constitution of a Fund as provided in Rule-37A of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. In the process, DOT has ordered that the pay scales of the MTNL employees will be brought down to the level of pay scales as granted to the BSNL employees only during next wage revision. Thus, the MTNL employees have been allowed to retain their one stage higher pay scales until next wage revision and yet granted the benefit of payment of pension by the Government. At the time of absorption, BSNL Employees were denied the same level of pay scales as granted to the similarly placed MTNL absorbed employees on the plea that the Government is paying pension to the absorbed BSNL employees, but not to the MTNL employees. In other words, DOT tried to justify higher pay scales to the MTNL employees since they were not granted the benefit of payment of pension by the Government.

Now, the DOT, in violation of the settled terms and conditions of service for absorption, has decided to pay pension to the MTNL absorbed employees by the Government retrospectively w.e.f. 1.10.2000 in the same manner as being paid

to the absorbed BSNL employees. But the disparity in the pay scales between MTNL and BSNL Employees, which should have also been removed w.e.f. 1.10.2000, has been ordered to be removed only during next wage revision due in 2017.

In the original terms and conditions for absorption, Department of Telecommunication had offered payment of pension by the Government only to the employees taking absorption in BSNL. At that time, DOT insisted that since their pension would be paid by the Government, the employees seeking absorption in BSNL are to accept one stage lower pay scales than the similarly placed employees absorbed in MTNL. The employees seeking absorption in MTNL, on the other hand, were offered pension to be paid from a fund by a trust to be constituted with the Secretaries of some specified Government Departments. On this ground, the MTNL employees were offered one stage higher pay scales than the scales offered to the similarly placed employees seeking absorption in BSNL.

During this period, Department of Telecommunication had time and again rejected the demand of the BSNL employees for pay parity with the similarly placed MTNL employees on the ground that the

Government is making payment of Pension to them, whereas Government do not pay pension to the MTNL employees and for which MTNL employees are granted one stage higher pay scales. On the other hand, when MTNL employees were demanding payment of pension by the Government as in BSNL, the Department of Telecommunication was rejecting their demand on the ground that the BSNL employees are paid pension by the Government since they draw one stage lower pay scale than the MTNL employees. Thus, grant of pay scales to the BSNL and MTNL employees were directly got linked to the authority who makes payment of pension i.e. whether it was by the Government or the Trust.

No doubt that DOT has communicated, vide DOT No. 42-4/2012-Pen(T) dated 28.04.2014, that during next wage revision, MTNL and BSNL will achieve pay parity by bringing down the pay scales of MTNL to the level of BSNL pay scales. But this allows the employees of MTNL to enjoy the benefit of higher pay scales and higher pensionary benefits than the employees of BSNL from 1.10.2000 to till next wage revision with the added advantage of payment of pension by the Government. The above decision, therefore, is unjust, unfair and discriminatory. Had the Government made it clear beforehand that MTNL absorbed employees would also get pensionary benefits by the Government, then those who finally opted for BSNL would have opted for absorption in MTNL instead of BSNL since the pay scales offered in MTNL were one level higher than in BSNL.

Further, Government has not only allowed the disparity in pay scales between MTNL and BSNL to continue till next wage revision, but also allowed the gap in wages and pension between the MTNL and BSNL employees to widen with every quarterly increase in Dearness Allowance.

Again even after next wage revision in January 2017, while the parity of pay scales may be made between the equivalent cadres of MTNL and BSNL, still those in MTNL would continue to draw higher pay vis a vis a similarly placed counterpart in BSNL, since whatever may be the revised pay scale, the actual pay of an employee gets fixed in the new scale only from his present pay with a fitment benefit. So unless BSNL employees get a fitment benefit substantially higher than that may be given to MTNL employees, the actual pay and consequently the pension that is received by MTNL absorbed employees would still be far higher than those who got absorbed in BSNL.

Thus in this whole process, DOT has not only violated its own terms and conditions of service for absorption but has also backstabbed the absorbed BSNL employees. In order to end this serious injustice meted out to the absorbed BSNL employees, DoT must immediately bring the pay scales in BSNL at the same level as that in MTNL w.e.f. 01.10.2000 and also revise the pension of the retired absorbed employees of BSNL without any further delay. We know that it is not a simple task to get justice.

But we cannot keep quiet and shall pursue the issue till justice is bestowed.



PROPOSAL TO ALLOW FITMENT BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% DA TO PRE-2007 AND POST-2007 (RETIRED BETWEEN 1.1.2007 AND 09.06.2013) BSNL PENSIONERS – DOT TO SEND DRAFT CABINET NOTE TO ALL MINISTRIES

DOT is all set to send its draft Cabinet Note on the above issue to all concerned Ministries to seek their comments/views. These Ministries will be required to examine the same and get approval of their respective Ministers to the comments/views that they wish to offer on the Note and send the same to the DOT. This process always consumes some time. Afterwards, on receipt of these comments/views, the Cabinet Note will be finalized in DOT by incorporating them in the Note. Thereafter, this will be submitted through the prescribed channel to the MOC&IT for his approval. This final Cabinet Note will then go to the Cabinet Secretariat. If the Cabinet Secretariat finds the Cabinet Note in order, the same will be put up by them to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration and approval. We can say that the process for obtaining the approval of the above proposal through a Cabinet Note has just begun. Still, there is a long way to go.

DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE FOR PENSIONERS INTRODUCED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, the 10th November 2014 has launched 'Jeevan Pramaan - Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners'. Jeevan Pramaan is an Aadhar-based Digital Life Certificate and an enabling mechanism to benefit over crore of pensioners. The digital certification do away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical Life Certificate in November each year, in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into his account. The Department of Electronics and IT has developed this software application which enables recording of the pensioner's Aadhar number and biometric details from his mobile device or computer, by plugging in a biometric reading device. The software application system will be made available to pensioners and other stakeholders on a large scale at no extra cost. It can be operated on a personal computer or a smart phone, along with an inexpensive biometric reading device.

Government has already introduced the system from the current year. Now Digital Life Certificate can be submitted at 40,000 Centres across the country or from one's home using Aadhar ID. The nearest centre can be located by sending SMS to JPL <space> Pin code to 7738299899. Government is also acting to remove some deficiencies in the system which have already been noticed.

A Government Ad announcing introduction of the system further elaborates about the system that :

- *Presently applicable to Defence and Central Government Pensioners covered by "Scheme for Payment of Pensions to Central Government Civil Pensioners".*
- *It is optional for the pensioner to submit Digital or Physical life Certificate.*
- *State Government and other Pension Sanctioning Authorities being requested to avail this*

facility.

- New Centers being added, refer to www.jeevanpramaan.gov.in for details.
- Electronic delivery of life certificate is now being facilitated by Punjab National Bank and State Bank of India.
- Hassle free process and much easier for pensioners (no requirement of pensioners to travel to pension disbursing agencies).

HOW TO GET DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE

- Visit the nearest Jeevan Pramaan Centre (Location details at www.jeevanpramaan.gov.in or download the App from the portal on your PC/Android Mobile* (*requires a biometric scanner).
- Pensioners with Aadhar number can biometrically authenticate their presence by giving Aadhar & Mobile Number, and provide necessary information like Pension Payment Order number, Bank Name and Bank Account Number.
- Receive instant SMS acknowledgement regarding your Digital Life Certificate on submission.
- Online transfer of Life Certificate to Pension Disbursing Agencies.
- SMS confirmation from disbursing agencies after processing of the life certificate within 24 hours.
- Pensioners without Aadhar numbers can enroll for Aadhar at the nearest Aadhar Enrolment Centers and authenticate their presence after receiving Aadhar Number.

AIBSNLREA thanks the Government for giving relief to the pensioners who would no longer be required to visit disbursing agencies which disburse their pension every year in November to submit their Physical Life Certificates.

ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE FORWARDS COPY OF AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER THAT WAS ENDORSED TO MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE MATTER OF INORDINATE DELAY IN INTER MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION ON THE DOT'S PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING THE FITMENT BENEFIT OF 50% DA EFFECTIVELY AMOUNTING TO 78.2%: Ministry of Finance has forwarded the copy of AIBSNLREA's representation dated 14.10.2014 addressed to the Prime Minister, which was endorsed to Union Finance Minister, on the above matter vide their No. 632/E-V/2014 dated 17.11.2014 to the Department of Telecommunication for redressal of the grievance and with a request to inform the petitioner suitably.

REPRESENTATION BY AIBSNLREA TO PRIME MINISTER WITH COPY ENDORSED TO OTHER CONCERNED MINISTERS IN THE MATTER OF INORDINATE DELAY IN INTER MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION ON THE DOT'S PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING THE FITMENT BENEFIT OF 50% DA EFFECTIVELY AMOUNTING TO 78.2% - BSNL SENDS A REPLY: As was reported earlier, a copy of AIBSNLREA's representation dated 14.10.2014 on the above issue to the Hon'ble Prime Minister (to read the representation, posting dated 15.10.2014 in this website may be viewed) was

forwarded by DOP&PW to the DOT for examining the matter and inform the Association. Now BSNL has sent a reply stating that a decision on the matter “is still awaited from the Government/DOT. As soon a decision is taken it will be communicated to all concerned”. *[To read the letter, posting dated 27.11.2014 in this website may be viewed].*

REPRESENTATION BY AIBSNLREA ON NON-SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE FOR REMOVAL OF ANOMALY IN PENSION OF ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.07.2001 – DOP&PW ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF THE LETTER AND FORWARDS TO DOT: AIBSNLREA had earlier taken up the above issue, now under discussion in the meetings of SCOVA, with Minister of State for (PP) expressing its concern that DoP&PW is examining the case from the financial implication angle instead of as a case of principle for fixation of basic pension. The Association also requested to resolve this issue considering it as a case for deciding the principle for fixation of pension and not on financial implication angle” *[To read the letter, posting dated 18.10.2014 in this website may be viewed].* Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare has since acknowledged the receipt of letter and forwarded it to Department of Telecommunication for examining ‘the issues as per extant rules/orders and inform suitably’ *[To read the DOP&PW letter, view posting dated 12.11.2014 in this website].*

AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION ON INORDINATE DELAY IN INTER MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING FITMENT BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 50% DA EFFECTIVELY AMOUNTING TO 78.2% IN THE BASIC PENSION OF ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS – DOP&PW ACKNOWLEDGES THE RECEIPT AND FORWARDS THE SAME TO DOT: It was already reported that AIBSNLREA had represented to the Prime Minister of India with copy endorsed to Minister of State for (PP) vide its letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2014/22 dated 14.10.2014 on the above issue *[View posting dated 15.10.2014 to read the letter].* Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare has since forwarded the copy of the letter endorsed to Minister of State for (PP) to Department of Telecommunication for examining ‘the issues as per extant rules/orders and inform suitably..’ *[To read the DOP&PW letter, view posting dated 11.11.2014 in this website].*

PRINCIPAL CCA, MAHARASHTRA RESPONDS TO OUR LETTER ON NON-PAYMENT OF PENSION AND OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 10.06.2013 AND 31.12.2013 ON THEIR LAST PAY DRAWN FIXED WITH THE BENEFIT OF MERGER OF 78.2% DA BY PRINCIPAL CCA, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE, MUMBAI: It may be recalled that AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Member (Finance), Telecom Commission stating that “the Principal CCA, Maharashtra Circle, Mumbai has not re-fixed the pension of the absorbed BSNL Pensioners who retired between 10.06.2013 and 31.12.2013 under his jurisdiction and who were wrongly and deliberately fixed their pension on the basis of presumed last pay drawn calculated with the benefit of effective merger of 68.8% DA, though all of them got the benefit of merger of 78.2% DA as per the Presidential Directive issued vide DOT OM No. 61-01/2012-SU dated 10.06.2013” *[view posting dated 29.7.2014 in this website to read the letter].* The Telecom Accounts Branch of Department of Telecommunication, in turn, had called for a report from the Principal CCA, Maharashtra vide their No. 6-24/2013/TA-I/Mah/3337 dated 12.08.2014. Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare had also asked DOT, vide their No. 4/5/2014-P&PW(D) dated 07.10.2014 “to send comments/action taken” on our representation as was

already reported in this website on 20.10.2014. Now the Joint Controller of Communication Accounts, o/o Pr. Controller of Communication Accounts, Maharashtra has replied to the Director (Accounts-I), DOT with copy endorsed to AIBSNLREA stating that “ ... **the work of revision of pension and payment of difference of pensionary benefits has been taken up. The cases are likely to be settled within 2 months i.e. upto the end of December 2014**”. [To read the letter received from the o/o Pr. CCA, Maharashtra, view posting dated 02.11.2014 in this website].

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CGM, TAMILNADU CIRCLE REGARDING THE LETTER ISSUED BY HIS OFFICE CIRCULATING THE OLD ANNUAL LIMIT FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT WITH VOUCHER FOR THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES: Tamilnadu Circle has issued a letter to its Head of SSAs authorizing the DGMs of the SSAs to sign permission letter to take treatment in nearby SSAs in absence of the GMs/PGMs to avoid delay. It has also reproduced in its office letter one particular Para of one BSNLMRS Order issued by Corporate Office in 2003. While, the revised annual limit for outdoor treatment with voucher for the serving employees has also been mentioned alongside the old provision by the Circle in its letter, this has not been done in case of the retired employees. AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of the CGMT about this omission and requested to issue a corrigendum circulating the revised annual limit for the retired employees that was issued by BSNL Corporate Office in 2010. [Posting dated 18.11.2014 in this website may be viewed to read the letter, BSNL C.O. letter and Tamilnadu Circle letter].

REMOVAL OF ANOMALY IN PENSION OF ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.07.2001: AIBSNLREA had last taken up the above issue, vide its representation dated 15.10.2014 (view posting dated 18.10.2014 in this website), with Shri Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for (PP) giving a reference to the decision taken in the last meeting of SCOVA and urging to get the above issue resolved at the earliest. Now in continuation to this representation, AIBSNLREA has again addressed the Minister of State for (PP) on the same issue citing two specific cases where DOP&PW had earlier resolved similar problem and also seeking his personal intervention to resolve the issue at the earliest. [To read the letter, view the posting dated 08.11.2014 in this website]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

AMOUNT OF FIXED MEDICAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS RESIDING IN AREAS NOT COVERED UNDER CGHS ENHANCED: Government of India (Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare) has issued Orders, vide its No. 4/25/2008-P&PW(D) dated 19.11.2014, enhancing the amount of Fixed Medical Allowance from the present Rs 300/- to Rs 500/- per month for the Central Government pensioners/family pensioners residing in areas not covered under the Central Government Health Scheme for meeting expenditure on their medical expenses that do not require hospitalization. [To read the order, posting dated 22.11.2014 in this website may be viewed].

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA EAST GODAVARI DISTRICT BRANCH HELD: Quarterly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, East Godavari District Branch was held on 26-11-2014 at the Conference Hall, Sanchar Bhavan, Rajahmundry at 10.00 hrs under the presidentship of Shri S Satya Narayana. The General Body first paid homage to the departed leaders of the Branch. Shri GSVSS Vara Prasad, District Secretary welcomed the members . Branch Secretary then invited Sr GMTD Shri KVV Satyanarayana as Chief Guest, Joint GM A Srinivasa Rao, DGM (Admin) Ramesh Babu and Special Chief Guest Shri N Kamaraju on the dias. Shri CB Sarma spoke on the need of a separate association for the retired BSNL executives. Sr GMTD expressed his surprise for such a huge gathering of retired executives in the district and expressed his happiness to be present in the retired executives' meeting. All the members were introduced to Sr GMTD. Sr GMTD, in his speech, shared his feelings with the members about the affairs in BSNL including its financial position and other related issues. The members gave suggestions to improve the revenue. During the discussion, the Branch Secretary pointed out that there are no prepaid micro SIMs in the entire AP Circle. Sr GMTD agreed that there is heavy shortage and said that he is pursuing the issue. The Branch Secretary also expressed his sincere thanks to the Sr GMTD in resolving the issue submitted in Association's earlier representation dated 18-03-2014 regarding payment of commutation arrears to those who retired during 01-01-2007 to 02-09-2008 by applying old commutation table. He thanked all the members for their collective contribution of Rs 60,000/- towards the AP CM Cyclone relief fund. He also expressed his special thanks to S/Shri Ch Gandhi, G Ramakrishna, KBS Naidu, A Kodanda Rao, G Ammiraju, A Rajagopala Rao, M Naga Bhushanam, G Sundara Rao, P Trimurtulu, KS Prakasa Rao and KSS Bhavachari for their immense support in the day to day organizational activities. He also apprised the gathering about current affairs such as problem of revision of pension with fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA, pension anomaly of BSNL pensioners who retired between 1-10-2000 to 31-7-2001, payment of medical claims which are held up due to introduction of centralized payment from Circle Office. Sr GMTD and all the members of AIBSNLREA East Godavari Branch honored Shri Nedunuri Kama Raju a legend who is taking full pension (Retired as DE in 1990). Shri BSVS Sarma another legend (Retired as CAO in 1990) could not attend the meeting due to his illness but conveyed his best wishes. The branch also decided to send a delegation to his residence to honor him. Special chief guest Shri N Kamaraju expressed his warm greetings and shared his feelings with the members by recollecting his memories with many of our association members. The meeting was attended by 73 members. 14 new life members joined the Branch taking the total strength to 140. The meeting ended with vote of thanks. This was followed by a lunch at hotel SURYA along with Special Chief guest, Sr GMTD, Joint GM, and DGM (admin) and others. [to see the photographs, posting dated 28.11.2014 in this website may be viewed]

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, GUJARAT STATE BRANCH : Gujarat State Branch of AIBSNLREA held its General Body and Get-together Meeting on Sunday, the 23rd November, 2014 at 03.00 P.M. at Ahmedabad Medical Association Hall, Ahmedabad. The meeting started with lighting of lamps by the Guests & executive members of the Branch which was followed by

a prayer song by Shri B.C.Chauhan and observance of two minutes silence in memory of departed members and their family members. The meeting was attended by 250 members including 30 new members. Chief Guest Shri Bharatbhai Shah, founder and chairman of "Aadarsh Amdavad" delivered a lecture on how to maintain health without medicine and also to help the society with our skill. He also briefed about the various activities of Aadarsh Amdavad for upliftment of life of people free of cost. Another Guest, Shri Shailesh Shah from "Aadarsh Amdavad" and a well known advocate delivered lecture on the requirement of execution of "will" for senior citizens and gave a narration how to prepare the same. He also offered his free of cost service to the members for preparing "will" for them including their registration. Shri A.B. Patel, State Secretary apprised the gathering about current affairs such as problem of revision of pension with fitment benefit of merger of 78.2% IDA, pension anomaly of BSNL pensioners who retired between 1-10-2000 to 31-7-2001, payment of medical claims which are held up due to introduction of centralized payment from Circle Office and also about the action taken by the State Branch for resolving the individual and common problems of the members. The meeting ended by presentation of vote of thanks by Shri R.M.Nayi, Asstt. Financial Secretary. This was followed by a dinner.

BIENNIAL STATE CONFERENCE OF AIBSNLREA, WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH: West Bengal State Branch of AIBSNLREA held its 3rd Biennial State Conference at CTO Building, Kolkata on 22nd November 2014. The Conference was attended by 260 members and presided over by Sri A.K.Basuroy, State President. The conference observed one minute's silence in memory of the departed members and those who lost their lives in the devastating flood in Jammu & Kashmir. The State secretary of All India BSNL Officers' Association, Shri Sukumar Ghosh addressed the conference and assured all the assistance from their side. Shri N.H. Siddique, State Secretary of West Bengal State Branch of AIBSNLREA placed the State Secretary's Report highlighting all the news and activities of the State Branch including the present status of 78.2% DA merger. State Finance Secretary placed the audited accounts for the preceding two years. Five members from the house took part in the discussions and expressed their concern for the inordinate delay for settlement of 78.2% merger issue and also on various constraints for Indoor medical treatment due to non-availability of cashless facility. Assistant State Secretary, Shri S.R.Palit in his reply discussed those issues elaborately. Finally, the house passed the report. A new set of State Office bearers were elected with S/Shri Sanat Kumar Maitra as the State President, Shri S R Palit as State Secretary and P N Basak as the State Financial Secretary. *[To get the list of new Office Bearers, please view posting dated 26.11.2014 in this website.]*

PUNE BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA MEETS SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR, MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE : A delegation of Pune Branch (Maharashtra State) of AIBSNLREA comprising of S/Shri S N Mupid, President, B B Controllu, Secretary and P C Dubey, Organizing Secretary of the Branch met Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest & Climate Change on 17.11.2014. They requested the intervention of the Minister for early settlement of the case to allow the benefit of merger of fitment benefit of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% DA to the BSNL pensioners. They also handed over him a few earlier communication on the issue. The

Minister assured them to get the issue settled at the earliest.

Earlier, the Branch had a General Body meeting on 8.11.2014 in which various issues including the status of merger of 78.2% DA for the purpose of fitment of basic pension of the BSNL pensioners/family pensioners were also discussed. The Branch has also enrolled two new life members. The Branch Office Bearers also held a meeting with the retired BSNL Executives residing in Pimpri Chinchwad, an adjoining Municipal Corporation in Pune SSA on 23.11.2014. Six new life members joined the association.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, AKOLA BRANCH: AIBSNLREA Akola Branch (Maharashtra State) held its bimonthly General Body meeting on 15-11-2014 at the residence of Shri D.N. Amritkar, Retd JTO Akola. Thirty Two (32) members were present in the meeting and three new Life Members were also enrolled in the Branch. The membership of Akola branch has now increased to 47 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 house was informed regarding the meeting held with CAO, o/o GMT Akola in case of settlement of medical reimbursement claims of few retired executives. CAO assured that the claims will be settled soon after compiling the requisite data in ERP. All members were informed to submit life certificate to respective Bank/Post Office as early as possible. The house was also informed regarding Aadhar based Digital Life Certificate scheme which is recently launched by Hon. PM on dated 10-11-2014.. President Shri V.V. Bhagat highlighted the importance of the Association and urged the house to help in enrollment of new retired executives. The meeting was adjourned with vote of thanks by Branch Secretary.

NEW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA FORMED AT ALLAHABAD, UP STATE: In a meeting of the retired BSNL Executives held on 28.10.2014, a new Branch of AIBSNLREA has been formed at Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was presided over by Shri A K Bhatnagar, Retired SDE. Shri R S Arora, State Secretary of UP State Branch apprised the members about the latest status of all important issues pertaining to the BSNL pensioners. 23 retired Executives attended the meeting and all of them applied for Life Membership of the Association. Later, all the office bearers of the Branch were elected unanimously with S/Shri R S Gupta as President, Rajendra Prasad as Secretary and Damodar Prasad as the Financial Secretary of the Branch.

EAST GODAVARI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA DONATES RUPEES SIXTY THOUSAND TO AP CM RELIEF FUND: AIBSNLREA, East Godavary Branch (AP State) has donated Rs 60,000/- by raising the fund from its own members to AP CM RELIEF FUND (Cyclone relief) through CCC channel. The representatives of the Branch Association met the CMD, CCC Channel, Rajahmundry and handed over the cheque. The Cyclone HUD-HUD hit North Coastal Andhra Pradesh on 12-10-2014 and the loss estimated to be Rs 70,000/- crores. The green city Visakhapatnam has totally changed to brown. Millions of trees were uprooted. Electrical and communication systems were totally collapsed in the three districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizayanagram and Srikakulam. East Godavary and West Godavary Districts were also partially affected. Government did respond very quickly and the PM also visited Visakhapatnam immediately to take stock of the situation. On its part,

BSNL restored 60% of its land lines within 48hrs and 80% in 72hrs. This was widely recognized by the people of Visakhapatnam where no other service operators could do it even after 4 weeks.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF LUCKNOW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: Quarterly General Body meeting meeting of Lucknow Branch (UP State) was held on 18.10.2014 in the Recreation Club at Kaiserbagh Telephone Exchange compound, Lucknow. Sixty one (61) members were present in the meeting and three new Life Members were also enrolled in the Branch. Shri S.P.Singh, Branch Secretary informed the house that 66 individual appeal on pension revision was sent on 04.06.2014 to Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble PM with copies endorsed to all concerned Ministers as per the call given by the CHQ. The house was also informed that the registration certificate has been issued to the Association. State Financial Secretary Shri Ambika Singh also addressed the house. S/Shri B.P.Tripathi and R.K.Tandon apprised the house about the status of allowing benefit of merger of 78.2% DA issue to the pensioners. Shri Radhey Shyam, Org. Secretary read out the letter dated 14.10.2014 from CHQ to PM and informed about the steps being taken by CHQ in resolving the issue. The house decided to co-opt Shri Jagdish Prasad, Vice President of the Branch to work as President till next election due to sad demise of Shri Y.S.Tripathi, President on 26.09.2014 after prolonged illness. Another member Shri Virendra Prasad, retired SDE had also expired on 03.04.2014. The house observed two minutes silence to pay homage to the departed comrades and then the house was adjourned.

MEDIA REPORTS

Jeevan Pramaan: PM Modi launches Aadhar-based Digital Life Certificate for pensioners

By ECONOMICTIMES.COM | 10 Nov, 2014, 06.48PM IST

NEW DELHI: In a move aimed at benefitting over a crore pensioners, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched 'Jeevan Pramaan - Digital Life Certificate for Pensioners'.

According to PM Modi, Jeevan Pramaan, which is an Aadhar-based Digital Life Certificate, will be an enabling mechanism which would benefit the common man. The proposed digital certification will do away with the requirement of a pensioner having to submit a physical Life Certificate in November each year, in order to ensure continuity of pension being credited into his account.

"The Department of Electronics and IT has developed a software application which will enable the recording of the pensioner's Aadhar number and biometric details from his mobile device or computer, by plugging in a biometric reading device. Key details of the pensioner, including date, time, and biometric information will be uploaded to a central database on real-time basis, ultimately enabling the Pension Disbursing Agency to access a Digital Life Certificate. This will

conclusively establish that the pensioner was alive at the time of authentication," a press release said.

At present, 50 lakh individuals draw pension from the Central Government alone. A similar number draw pension from State and Union Territory Governments. Several PSUs also provide pension benefits. Over 25 lakh retired personnel draw pension from the Armed Forces. "The Aadhar-Based Digital Life Certificate will go a long way in reducing hardship which so many senior citizens have to go through to produce a Life Certificate every year," the press release added.

The software application system will be made available to pensioners and other stakeholders on a large scale at no extra cost. "It can be operated on a personal computer or a smart phone, along with an inexpensive biometric reading device. This facility will also be made available at Common Service Centres being operated under the National e-Governance Plan, for the benefit of pensioners residing in remote and inaccessible areas," the press release said.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY CHQ DURING NOVEMBER 2014

Chandigarh Branch has deposited Rupees one thousand two hundred (Rs 1200/-) only in the CHQ's Bank Account with Karur Vysya Bank on 31.10.2014 as quota for 6 new Life Members.

Allahabad Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees two thousand eight hundred (Rs 2800/-) only in the CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 05.11.2014 as quota for 14 Life Members.

Akola Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs 600/-) only in the CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 17.11.2014 as quota for 3 new Life Members.

Ambala Branch (Haryana State) has deposited Rupees Eight hundred (Rs 800/-) only in the CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 21.11.2014 as quota for 4 new Life Members.

Gorakhpur Branch (Uttar Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs 600/-) only in the CHQ's S/B Account with Syndicate Bank on 22.11.2014 as quota for 3 new Life Members.

East Godavari Branch (AP State) has deposited Rupees three thousand five hundred (Rs 3500/-) only in the CHQ's Bank Account with Karur Vysya Bank on 27.11.2014 as quota/admission fee for 14 new Life Members.

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