



## Editorial

### **DISTURBING DEVELOPMENTS**

The recent developments on pay revision of BSNL employees are really disturbing. After sitting over BSNL proposal for pay revision of BSNL Executives with 15% fitment for nearly a year, DoT virtually negated the proposals stating that BSNL will not be able to bear its present operational expenditure along with financial impact of 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC of Rs.4303 crores per annum, being additional burden. DoT had pointed out the huge decline in revenue from operations of BSNL, 20% in 2017-18 in comparison to previous year and 27.8% when comparing Q1 of 2018-19 with Q1 of 2017-18 and wanted BSNL to submit concrete and viable proposals.

This created anger and frustration among BSNL employees. In this background the indefinite strike call issued by the recognised unions and associations along with a few other unions and associations in BSNL naturally raised hopes of settlement of pay revision issue through some hard bargaining. But the major unions and associations faltered in the first step itself in mobilising all behind the strike, even leaving out their earlier partners. Several rounds of negotiations were held between these organisations and BSNL/DoT, where Secretary DoT conveyed progress in other three demands but had nothing to tell on pay revision. However, these unions and associations chose for a meeting with the

Minister of State for Communications after deferring the strike for one week. The next day the meeting has taken place with MOSC, where he had only repeated whatever DoT had been stating earlier, indicating positive action in other issues but nothing on pay revision. The unions and association have deferred the strike indefinitely as they feel that some more time is to be given to the DOT and BSNL Management to sort out the issue.

On the main issue of pay revision, the minister has only said that certain additional inputs are required and BSNL should work out a viable proposal. On pension contribution by BSNL on actual pay, DoT is unreasonably delaying the issue even after the DoE giving it the freedom to decide the issue on its own, long back. We do not understand the importance of raising the matter of 4G spectrum to BSNL, since it is reported that even if spectrum is allotted it may take a long time for BSNL to put up the infrastructure and commence the 4G services. It is also said that BSNL could not complete the already planned 3G sites and that 3G services still have a huge potential for revenue. On the pension revision matter, it was claimed by the unions and associations that DoT has delinked pension revision from the pay revision of serving employees and the revision of pension

would be done at the earliest. It is not known if DoT is empowered to take such a decision and whether DoP&PW and DOE will agree for it, given the concept of pension revision and anomalies it would create among the present and future pensioners. However, the official record of discussions in the meeting with the MOSC does not mention anything about delinking but only speaks about the 'positive action already underway.'

It is time that all the stake holders realise that pension revision is possible only after pay revision of BSNL employees becomes a reality. And pay revision of BSNL employees is becoming increasingly tough in view of huge decline in revenue. Building a much stronger unity to face any situation in the future and keeping in mind the interests of

BSNL and its employees, against any ideological stand by these unions and associations, are important to achieve the pay revision.

Meanwhile, BSNL is reported to have submitted its response to DoT even before the discussions with DoT took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018. It is learnt that BSNL has reiterated that it is banking on a refund/adjustment of Rs.2000 crores from DoT towards excess pension contribution paid based on maximum of pay scale, if BSNL proposal for pension contribution on actual pay is agreed upon.

As far as BSNL absorbed pensioners are concerned, for the present, we can only continue to watch with our fingers crossed.

## **ISSUES TAKEN UP**

**AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF CASHLESS FACILITY AGAINST INDOOR MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM ALL EMPANELLED HOSPITALS BY CGMT, UP(W) TELECOM CIRCLE:** In continuation to its earlier representation on the above issue wherein UP (West) Telecom Circle ordered withdrawal of cashless facility against indoor medical treatment from all empanelled hospitals [View posting dated 27.10.2018 in this website], AIBSNLREA has again written to Director (HR) following issue of another Order by CGMT, UP(West) Telecom restoring the cashless facility only in selected cases. The Association has protested against this fresh Order also and requested Director (HR) to advise CGMT UP(West) Telecom Circle to restore the cashless facility at least to the retired employees. [View posting dated 16.11.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

## **RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS**

**DOP&PW FORWARDS REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) TO THE DDG(PG), DOT REGARDING NON-RETURN OF ORIGINAL LAND DEED TO SHRI A.B.MURMU, RETIRED DGM, TELECOM STORES. KOLKATA EVEN AFTER FULL RECOVERY OF HIS HBA DUE TO NON-FURNISHING OF RECOVERY PARTICULARS:** After failing to get any response from DOT on the above matter despite taking up the issue twice, AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension) requesting his intervention so that Shri A B Murmu, Retd DGM, Telecom Stores, Kolkata gets back his original Land Deed at the earliest [View posting dated

30.10.2018 in this website to read the letter]. Now DOP&PW has forwarded the said representation of AIBSNLREA to Dy Director General (PG), DOT to examine the issue as per extant rules/orders and inform the Association. [View posting dated 12.11.2018 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

**DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING DENIAL OF ANNUAL INCREMENT EVEN ON NOTIONAL BASIS FALLING DUE ON THE DAY FOLLOWING SUPERANNUATION ON COMPLETION OF ONE FULL YEAR OF SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TO DDG(ESTT), DOT:** Following dismissal of an SLP filed by the Union of India in the Supreme Court against a judgment of Madras High Court allowing the benefit of annual increment falling due on the day following superannuation on completion of one full year of service for the purpose of granting pensionary benefits to a Government servant (Petitioner), AIBSNLREA had sent a representation to the Prime Minister of India with copy endorsed to others urging to extent the said benefit to all similarly placed retirees [View posting dated 01.10.2018 in this website]. Now, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has forwarded the copy of the said representation, which was endorsed to Secretary (Pension), to DDG(Estt), DOT for taking further action in the matter. [View posting dated 05.11.2018 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

**NON-ISSUE OF PENSION SLIPS INDICATING DETAILS OF PENSION DRAWN AND INCOME TAX DEDUCTED TO THE PENSIONERS RECEIVING PENSION THROUGH CANARA BANK BRANCHES IN KERALA- CENTRALIZED PENSION PROCESSING CENTRE OF CANARA BANK RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S LETTER TO CMD, CANARA BANK:** AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to CMD, Canara Bank since no pension slips were being issued to the pensioners, particularly DOT/BSNL IDA pensioners, receiving pension through Canara Bank Branches in Kerala. The Association had requested to ensure that all the pensioners drawing pension from Canara Bank Branches in Kerala are issued monthly pension-slips indicating the details of pension credited in their S/B accounts including the amount of income tax being deducted. The Association also requested that these particulars be supplied in the registered mobile numbers of the pensioners through sms and also by e-mail in their given e mail-id" [View posting dated 25.09.2018 in this website to read the letter]. Now, the Divisional Manager of Centralized Pension Processing Centre of Canara Bank has responded to that letter and informed that suitable instructions have been issued to all the branches to issue monthly pension slips to the pensioners as and when they visit the branches. Steps have also been taken to send PENSION SLIP to the registered e-mail of the pensioners. About TDS being deducted, the Bank has also responded. [View posting dated 01.11.2018 in this website to read the letter from Canara Bank.](#)

## **GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS**

**DOP&T LAYES DOWN PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED ON PROMOTION OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOUND FIT BY REVIEW DPC AFTER THEIR RETIREMENT:** Department of Personnel & Training had on 25.01.2016 issued an OM to grant notional promotion to a Government servant exonerated in a disciplinary proceedings after retirement. Now it has issued another OM, vide its

F. No. 22011/3/2013-Estt. (D) dated 15.11.2018, laying down the procedure to be followed on promotion of Government servants found fit by review DPC after retirement. The Government servants who are found fit by review DPC after their retirement on account of revision of seniority list of the feeder cadre, upgradation of below benchmark APARs etc will get the benefit of notional promotion, pay fixation on notional basis and also revision of pension on the basis of the notional pay. [View posting dated 20.11.2018 in this website to read the DOPT OM](#)

**BSNL ASKS CIRCLES TO FURNISH DETAILED REPORT ON HOSPITAL WISE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT PENDING PAYMENT AND THE CLAIMS PREFERRED BY RETIRED EMPLOYEES PENDING FOR PAYMENT:** BSNL Corporate Office, in a letter dated 15.11.2018, has asked all the Circles to furnish detailed report on hospital wise outstanding amount pending payment and also the medical claims preferred by retired employees pending for payment as on date. The Report has been asked to be invariably submitted by 20.11.2018. [View posting dated 16.11.2018 in this website to read the BSNL letter](#)

## **BRANCHES IN ACTION**

**GB MEETING OF WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH:** A GB Meeting of AIBSNLREA, West Bengal State Branch was held on 25/11/2017 at Telecom Institute Hall, Kolkata with massive participation of more than 315 members. The Hall was jam packed till the end of the meeting. After a brief cultural programme presented by our members, the meeting started at 2.30 pm. with State President Shri S.K.Moitra in the chair. The House observed one minute's silence in remembrance of four departed members. Shri S.R.Palit, State Secretary placed his report before the House. Audited accounts (Receipts & Payments) for the last three financial years were also placed in the meeting. Shri Debasish Mitra, Organising secretary briefly discussed the organisational activities of the State Body. Shri Sadhan Ghosh, Organising Secretary (East) CHQ in his address apprised the course of action of our CHQ to secure justice in regard to denied pay & pension arrears due from 01/01/07 to 09/06/2013. The State Secretary replied all the queries of the members and elaborately discussed the relevant issues like court case, revision of pension following the 3rd PRC's recommendation etc. and urged upon the members to ignore any misleading news and rumours. He also appealed to all members to donate generously towards the Legal Fund being collected at the call of CHQ. Eight new members were enrolled in the meeting. Members belonging to Civil & Electrical wing born the cost of refreshment while Shri Debasish Mitra, borne the expenditure for cultural programme

**ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, ODISHA STATE BRANCH HELD:** Odisha State Branch of AIBSNLREA held its Annual General Body Meeting in the Conference Hall of Door Sanchar Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 18.11.2018. The meeting was presided over by Shri Sanatan Das, President, Odisha State Branch. The meeting was attended by a very large of numbers. Twelve retired executives joined the Association as Life Members. The meeting started with presentation of welcome address by Shri B K Mallick, CWC Member. The Report of activities of the State Association was presented by Shri Pravat Kumar Kar, State Secretary. Shri N Mahapatra, State Financial Secretary presented the Audited Accounts before the House. These

Reports were adopted after some discussions on some points. After the presidential speech, election of new set of office-bearers for the next term was conducted. A new body was elected unanimously with S/Shri Sanatan Das (State President), S/Shri Deodhari Lal Das & Biswanath Sarkhol (State Vice Presidents), Shri Pravat Kumar Kar (State Secretary), Shri Dilip Kumar Mohanty (Asst. State Secretary), Shri Bibhu Prasad Mishra (State Organizing Secretary), Shri Nakula Mahapatra (State Financial Secretary), Shri Bijaya Kumar Mallick (CWC Member), S/Shri Bhabani Prasad Dash, Rabi Narayan Satapathy, Sarat Chandra Sahoo & Kirani Mohanta (all State Executive Committee Members). Shri Maheswar Biswal was nominated as Auditor. The House also selected S/Shri M R P Patnaik and Rabindra Nath Samal as the Advisors. Thereafter, the new State Body took over. The meeting concluded after presentation of Vote of Thanks by Shri M R P Patnaik.

**NEW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA FORMED AT NANDED (MAHARASTHRA STATE):** In a meeting of the retired Executives of BSNL on 01.11.2018, a new branch of AIBSNLREA, Maharashtra State has been formed at Nanded. Initially, nine retired executives joined the Branch as Life Members. Following Office bearers were elected unanimously to represent the Branch:- President: Shri S N Shinde (09422165060), Secretary: Shri T G Hingade (09423136844) **and** Finance Secretary: Shri B V Kotgire (09423136900).

## **STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING NOVEMBER 2018**

**Kanpur Branch (UP State)** has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 30/11/2018 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

**Nanded Branch (Maharashtra State)** has deposited Rupees one thousand (Rs. 1000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 28/11/2018 as CHQ quota for 5 new Life Members.

An amount of Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only stands credited in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 28/11/2018.

**Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State)** has deposited Rupees five hundred fifty (Rs. 550/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 28/11/2018.

**Shri Brahm Pal Singh, Retired Accounts Officer, NTR, Delhi** has deposited Rupees five hundred fifty (Rs. 550/-) only by cheque in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank which has since been credited on 28/11/2018 for Life Membership with Delhi South west Branch.

**Ambala Branch (Haryana State)** has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 28/11/2018 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

**Shri N K Nainwal, Retd. Sr. AO, BSNL HQ, Ramnagar** has deposited Rupees five hundred (Rs. 500/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26/11/2018

**Shri B.C. Joshi, Retd. Tech. Ramnagar** has deposited Rupees five hundred (Rs. 500/-) only in the

S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26/11/2018.

**Shri D.S.Bhakuni, Retd. SDOT, Almora** has deposited Rupees five hundred (Rs. 500/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26/11/2018.

**Shri B.S.Dangwal, Retd. SDOT, Ramnagar** has deposited Rupees five hundred (Rs. 500/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26/11/2018.

**Odisha State Branch** has deposited Rupees two thousand four hundred (Rs. 2400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26/11/2018 as CHQ quota for 12 new Life Members.

**West Bengal State Branch** has deposited Rupees ten thousand (Rs. 10000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 22/11/2018 as CHQ quota for 50 new Life Members.

**Erode Branch (Tamilnadu State)** has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 20/11/2018 as CHQ quota for two new Life Members.

**Kanpur Branch (UP State)** has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs. 600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 20/11/2018 as CHQ quota for three new Life Members.

**Udaipur Branch (Rajasthan State)** has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 12/11/2018 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

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