

# **ALL INDIA BSNL RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION , GUJARAT**

## **BRIEF REPORT OF 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL BODY-CUM-GET TOGETHER MEETING**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body-cum-Get together Meeting of All India BSNL Retired Executives' Association, Gujarat State Branch was held on Sunday, April 28, 2013 at Ahmedabad Medical Association Hall, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad.

The meeting was presided over by Shri B.M.Bhavsar, President, AIBSNLREA, Gujarat State Branch and started with the prayer. Lamps were lighted by Hon'ble Guests on the dais including Shri S.Basu, General Secretary. The House then paid homage in memory of the departed members and some of the family members. The President, in his introductory speech, welcomed all the Guests, members, new members and others. He also gave a brief history on the formation of our separate Association and its rapid growth in these four years.

Shri A.B.Patel , State Secretary briefed the members on the current status of all the major issues concerning to the BSNL pensioners. In his speech, he mainly focused on the important issues concerning BSNL pensioners in general and the members of the AIBSNLREA in particular which were taken up by State Branch i.e. (1) Need for formation of separate Association of BSNL pensioners at All India level, (2) Increase in the membership of State Branch from initial 30 members to 528 members in last four years, (3) Opening of Six district level branches, (4) Getting the pension revision cases of all pre-2007 BSNL pensioners in Gujarat settled well within the target date fixed by DoT, (5) Getting the Pension Adalats held at CCA level for immediate solution of common & individual problems of BSNL pensioners and our members, (6) Cancellation of the Order for reversion of time bound promotion cases, Leave encashment, medical facilities and concessional telephone facilities to those pensioners against whom disciplinary/court cases are pending, (7) Endorsement of IDA orders by CCA to Postal authorities & its implementation by postal and Bank authorities, (8) Direct deposit of provisional pension in the Bank accounts of pensioners, (9) Direct deposit of DCRG & CVP amount to the BSNL pensioners retiring from January 2013 onwards, (10) Recording of Date of Birth of spouse in PPO of BSNL pensioners, (11) Honouring the senior Members of above 70 years of age every year. He also stated that General Secretary has extended lot of help in solving many problems by taking up the cases with BSNL Corporate Office and DOT HQs New Delhi.

As per new policy adopted by the Sate Branch, 12 senior members who have crossed 70 years of age on or before 31-3-2013 were honoured with presentation of Shawl and Bouquet.

Shri Rajbir Singh CAO, CCA Ahmedabad, who represented Controller of Communication Accounts, Gujarat Circle in the meeting, also addressed the gathering. He acknowledged the cooperation extended by the AIBSNLREA Office Bearers and others. He stated that office of CCA, Ahmedabad will continue to take positive actions to resolve the problems of the pensioners which are within its purview.

Shri S.Basu, General Secretary briefed the House on the issues taken up by AIBSNLREA for resolving the problems faced by the BSNL pensioners in general and the members of the Association in particular. He specifically mentioned that the issue of revision

of pension of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners on IDA pay scales was taken up strongly by the Association, though all serving employees' Unions and two Executives' Associations of BSNL under the banner of Joint Action Committee along with their counterparts in MTNL favoured revision of pension in presumptive CDA scales in the same line as was demanded by ITS Association. They even had a few rounds of meetings with the then Secretary (Telecom) to press for their demand for which official minutes covering the discussion on the demand were circulated by DoT. The Association, in the process, had to hold discussions even with the concerned Officers in the Ministry of Law and DoP&PW. It also took the help of RTI route. Revision of pension in IDA ensured higher revised pension with an increase of Rs 4000-5000 to most of the retired Executives. Other pensioners were also similarly handsomely benefitted. He stated that it is the AIBSNLREA which alone demanded benefit of revised formula for fixation of pension on last pay drawn and higher limit of Rs 10 lakhs for payment DCRG w.e.f. 1.1.2006, as given to the CG employees after VI CPC recommendation, for the absorbed BSNL pensioners also. Our consistent persuasion bore result as DoT was forced to seek the clarification from DoP&PW and finally the Order was issued granting the benefit as demanded by us. In regard to merger of 78.2% of IDA with basic pay/pension, he said that DoT has now proposed to refer the matter to Board of Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises. He wondered why the case was at all required to be referred to BRPSE when BSNL is not declared as a sick unit and moreover this is not the case of fresh pay revision but is a clear case for correcting a mistake that took place by merger of 68.8% of IDA while revision of pay scales. He further added that only one satisfaction that the BSNL pensioners are having now is that DoT has categorically stated that if benefit of merger of 78.2% of IDA is allowed to the serving employees, it will be allowed to the pensioners also. The General Secretary also narrated how the case for removal of anomaly in fixation of pension to the DOT employees absorbed in BSNL who retired between 1-10-2000 and 31-07-2001 was taken up and pursued by AIBSNLREA. He stated that as discussed and decided in the SCOVA meeting organized and held by DoP&PW, DoT is to send a fresh proposal which will be examined by DoP&PW. AIBSNLREA has proposed that the last few months' pay in CDA scales for such pensioners before their absorption should be notionally fixed in IDA pay scale and the average of last 10 months of pay be calculated accordingly to resolve the issue. He also informed the House that Association's earlier proposal to allow fixation of pension to these pensioners on the basis of their last pay drawn was not agreed to by Deptt of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. He also stated that AIBSNLREA has been successful in getting Orders issued by BSNL Corporate Office for extension of 60% concession on broad band facility to retired below JAG level Officers and also to the JAG and above level BSNL executives. He affirmed that it is the AIBSNLREA alone which took up the case for allowing Medical facilities to the BSNL pensioners under suspension and who are in receipt of provisional pension following a reference by Gujarat Circle and got the issue favourably resolved. He also briefed the House about other important issues taken up by the Association including a few cases concerning the individual members/common cases for BSNL Pensioners of Gujarat State Branch and others such as (1) Expeditious settlement of disciplinary cases against the retired BSNL officers, (2) Revision of provisional pension under Rule-69 of CCS Pension Rules 1972 of the pre 2007 BSNL pensioners, (3) Implementation of DOP&PW OM dated 28-1-2013 for revision of family pension of the pre 2007 BSNL pensioners, (4) Removal of wide disparity in ceiling limit of medical reimbursement of outdoor treatment with vouchers between Pre-2007 and post 2007 retired BSNL employees,

**(5) Retirement Order for Shri N M Jadav, Ex-SDE of Gujarat Circle etc. He also gave clarifications on issues like withholding of Leave encashment on retirement while under suspension, revision of reimbursement of cost of hearing aids to the BSNL employees etc.**

**About 200 members of the State Branch participated in the meeting braving the scorching heat-wave. 16 new life members were enrolled on the day, thereby the total life membership of State Branch reached to 544. Shri R.C. Sharma, CWC member, addressed the gathering and made appeal to increase the membership of Gujarat State Branch. Shri M.S.Gupta, Branch Treasurer presented the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2012-13 before the house. It was passed by the House unanimously.**

**Shri R.C.Sharma, CWC Member and who also anchored the meeting, Vice Presidents S/Shri D.M.Patel and S.M.Chamar, Auditor Shri R.F.Valand and S/Shri A.K. Patel, I.M.Bhavsar, J.T.Parmar, C.J.Patel and others made special efforts for the grand success of the meeting. The meeting ended with vote of thanks presented by Shri R.S.Agrawal, Vice President of the State Branch.**