

SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF EAST VIDARBHA BRANCH, NAGPUR (MAHARASHTRA) OF AIBSNLREA

The Special General Body Meeting of All India BSNL Retired Executives' Association, East Vidarbha Branch (Nagpur) was held at 'PMG Staff Society Madhav Nagar Sabhagruha', Nagpur on 30-07-2013. The meeting was presided over by Shri V W Patil, President, AIBSNLREA Nagpur. The meeting started with the lightening of traditional lamp by the chief Guest Mrs P T Ghosh CAO (Pension) in CCA Office, Shri S Basu GS CHQ and others. In the beginning of the meeting, homage was paid to the departed members of Nagpur Branch and thousands of pilgrims who lost their lives in Uttarakhand mishap in the middle of June, 2013. Shri S Basu General Secretary CHQ, Chief Guest Mrs Ghosh CAO(Pension) o/o CCA Nagpur, S/Shri V W Patil VP, Kanoje VP, V G Dakhode, Branch Secretary, Amravati, P R Bhujbal, Branch Secretary, Nagpur were on the dais. Shri Kanoje, Vice President welcomed the Chief Guest by presenting a bouquet. Shri V W Patil welcomed Shri S Basu, GS by presenting a Shawl and bouquet. Members in the house gave rousing welcome to GS. The President, in his introductory speech welcomed the Chief Guest and General Secretary, new members and all the participants. Shri P R Bhujbal, Branch Secretary briefed the members about the key issues concerning the BSNL pensioners and activities of the Nagpur Branch since last five years. He appreciated GS for the sincere efforts being taken by him for achieving the aims and objectives for which our Association is formed. Shri V G Dakhode, Branch Secretary, Amravati also addressed the house, and briefed the activities of the West Vidarbha Branch. He intimated about the opening of a new Branch at AKOLA. Members cheered the announcement.

S Basu GS, at the start of his speech briefly touched his connection with Nagpur. He came to Nagpur in February 1966 to become a member of the first batch of ES trainees at the newly opened training centre at GPO Nagpur. He said that unlike serving employees' unions/associations, for the associations of the Pensioners there is no recognition rules or trade union facilities. Thus the Pensioners' Associations have to function within some limitations. It is not that the concerned Department or the Government does not consider the representations received from the Pensioners' Association. Government has also introduced Grievance redressal mechanism. Further, there is a separate Department under Central Government to look into exclusively the welfare issues concerning the pensioners. He said that AIBSNLREA believes in the preventive action oriented approach so that possible problems are not allowed to crop up, unlike many other associations which believe in corrective action oriented approach. He said that the Association started its march from April 2008 and had been instrumental in resolving some vital issues for the BSNL Pensioners. He said that first major success for AIBSNLEA came through allowing the Orders issued by Government in respect of the revised pension fixation formula and enhanced gratuity to be implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2006 for BSNL pensioners also. This allowed re-fixation of pension on last pay drawn and benefit of enhanced limit for payment of gratuity to the BSNL

pensioners who retired w.e.f. 01.01.2006 and onwards. The second and the most remarkable success of the Association had been in securing the revision of pension of the pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners and that too in IDA scale overcoming the obstacles created by the Unions/Associations who had been asking DoT to revise pension on presumptive CDA scale. The Association played a stellar role by getting the much needed Order issued by DOT regarding calculation of additional Commutation Value of Pension on account of granting the benefit of 50% DA merger w.e.f. 01-01-2007 to post-2007 BSNL IDA pensioners retired during 01-01-2007 to 02-09-2008 with correct commutation table, Revision of provisional pension sanctioned under Rule-69 of CCS Pension Rules 1972 of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners etc. Besides taking up individual problems and getting them settled, AIBSNLREA generally is concentrating on policy issues. He mainly focused on the important issues of BSNL pensioners which have taken up by the Association like Expeditious settlement of disciplinary cases against the retired BSNL officers, Implementation of DOP&PW OM dated 28-01-2013 for revision of family pension of the pre 2007 BSNL pensioners, Anomaly in fixation of pension to the DOT employees absorbed in BSNL and retired during 01-10-2000 to 31-07-2001, Merger of 78.2% IDA with basic pension w.e.f. 01-01-2007, Removal of wide disparity in ceiling limit of medical reimbursement of outdoor treatment with vouchers between Pre-2007 and post-2007 retired BSNL employees, Streamlining the procedures for settling the claims for reimbursement of medical bills of retired BSNL Employees etc. He also gave clarifications on issues like withholding of Leave encashment on retirement while under suspension under Rule-39(3) of CCS Leave Rules 1972, concessional broad band facility to the retired BSNL Employees. He discussed in detail the current issue of further revision of pension of the pre-2007 BSNL pensioners following issue or orders to extend the benefit of merger of 50% DA effectively amounting to 78.2% as on 01.01.2007 for the purpose fixation of pay in the revised IDA pay scales to the BSNL employees and also the case for extending this benefit of merger of 78.2% of DA for the purpose of pay fixation to those BSNL employees who had been in service on 01.01.2007 and retired before 10.06.2013.

Despite heavy rainfall on the day and water-logging in different areas, meeting evoked overwhelming response from the members who came in large numbers to attend the meeting. Shri Arun Deshpande, Asst. Branch Secretary anchored the function very nicely. Ten new life members were enrolled on the day, thereby the total life membership of Nagpur Branch reached to 280 from its earlier strength of 270. S/Shri B P Majumdar, N R Rachkondawar, Arun Deshpande, R C Mohan, V H Tumram, M R Sheikh, Bhattachary, V V Khandawe, R R Gadpal, S V Adbe, V W Patil, A D Kothekar took sincere efforts for the grand success of the meeting. Vote of thanks was presented by Shri N R Rachkondawar. The meeting concluded after singing of national anthem by all the participants.