

ALL INDIA BSNL RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH

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News Letter Cum Secretary's report 13th Issue

Dated 26th November 2016

SEASONS' GREETINGS FOR IDUZZOHA, SUBHA VIJAYA & DEWALI

On behalf of AIBSNLREA West Bengal State Branch I welcome all members and Pensioners assembled in this august House.

OBITUARY:- With profound grief, the Association mourns the sad demise of our member Nabakumar Saha Ex SDE Gangtok on 15.03.2016. We also express our grief at the death of Comrade Dipen Ghosh, veteran leader and one of the Pioneers of Central Govt. employees' movement who breathed his last on 13th November 2016.

1) Implementation of Pension Revision due to 78.2% DA Merger for BSNL Pensioners: - Ever since the order was issued from DOT on 18-07-2016 and later endorsed by BSNL, our State Branch has been constantly pursuing and monitoring the progress in BSNL units and CCA offices as well. The Association team physically visited to assess the progress in most of the units of CTD, Project Circle, ETR, Civil, Electrical, Architect, Factory, Stores and WBT HQ. We had meeting with the CCA West Bengal and CCA Kolkata on 05-09-2016 and Pr.CCA Kolkata on 10-11-2016. We met CGM Telecom Factory twice in the month of August and October & CGM CTD on 10th Nov and urged upon for speedy implementation of the order. Finding very poor progress, we even decided to launch demonstration in West Bengal Telecom Circle Office and communicated our decision to the Administration (printed in the next page). Finally, we called off our program on receipt of written commitment from the Administration i.e. (i) to complete the pension revision cases in two phases i.e. within 31.10.2016 & 15-11-2016 & (ii) to release re-imburement of medical bills submitted up to 30-09-2016 within 15-11-2016. We now notice that considerable progress has been made in the CGM WBT. We shall continue to strive hard for expeditious implementation of the pension revision.

Unfortunately, a particular group of people is now busy in sending SMS to our members asking them to join in a stated court case "against denied pension and other arrears" by sending them a wakalatnama and also money to join the case. These are the same people who once termed the DOT's Presidential Order on 78.2% IDA as "notional" and even suggested to DOT to fix the pay on the last day of retirement so that no pay and pension arrears are to be paid. Moreover, they also welcomed the DOT's defective order dated 18.7.2016 on pension revision with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA, called this a historic victory and went for wild celebrations. They even expressed their gratitude to Secretary, Telecom on issue of this defective order.

On the other hand, AIBSNLREA's stand on the issue had always been consistent based on strong logic. The Association tried its best to ensure that the revised fitment benefit on actual basis is allowed to all those who were in service on 01.01.2007. Unfortunately, in the face of betrayal by some groups who took damaging views, the efforts of AIBSNLREA was not successful. The Association knew what was coming and decided to accept whatever comes and then knock the door of the court to get justice. In the recently concluded All India Conference of AIBSNLREA held at Bhubaneswar, even before the Cabinet approval was known, the proposal to go to the court was approved in one voice. The Association was for long preparing itself for this and it was decided to move the court once the order for pension revision gets implemented, not only to get revised pay-fixation w.e.f. 01.01.2007, payment of DCRG, Leave Encashment, Commuted Value of Pension and even payment of arrears of pay which were due to the pensioners who were in service on 01.01.2007 but retired before 10.06.2013, pension arrears w.e.f. 01.01.2007 to the pre-2007 BSNL pensioners and also pay arrears for those who retired/retiring after 09.06.2013. The Association will move the Court just at the appropriate time.

Since the case will be filed by AIBSNLREA on representative capacity, there will be no need for affected members/pensioners to join the case individually and send wakalatnama. The judgment will be applicable to one and all.

The Association calls upon its members and others not to fall prey to the mischievous propaganda and agenda of any group who, till the other day, had been supporting the Administration against the interests of the BSNL pensioners.

2) Revision of Pre-2006 Pensioners—de-linking of revised Pension from qualifying service of 33 years: - Though the Department of Telecom endorsed DOP& PW order dated 06.04.2016 to all its field units but some CCA offices had sought some clarification from DOT regarding its applicability to the BSNL Pensioners. It is inexplicable that DOT has also asked for clarifications on the same issue from the Department of Pension. We do not have any doubt on this issue when in the past the orders issued based on this concept have already been implemented to the BSNL IDA Pensioners. DOP & PW vide their order dated 02-06-11 have already clarified that since the linkage of full pension with 33 years of qualifying service has been dispensed with by Order dated 02-09-2008, thereby any one retiring in terms of CCS(Pension) Rules 1972 shall also be eligible for pensionary benefits as per Rule 49. We are confident that this issue will be resolved soon.

3) Non-Payment of enhanced amount of DCRG and other benefits as per 7th CPC to the absorbed BSNL Pensioners:- Though DOP&PW had circulated the decision of the Govt. on 7th CPC recommendation enhancing the maximum limit of DCRG to 20 Lakhs with effect from 01.01.2016, the same has not been implemented in respect of the BSNL IDA Pensioners. We know that as per the settled rule, all modifications in the existing rules covering Pension, Qualifying Service, Gratuity, Commutation etc. are equally applicable to the BSNL IDA Pensioners since they are also covered under the various provisions of CCS Pension Rules, 1972. Our CHQ has taken up the case and we hope that this issue will also get resolved.

4) Extension of CGHS facilities to the BSNL Pensioners - DOT issued another Order regarding recording of basic pay of CDA scale with reference to IDA scale in PPOs:- AIBSNLREA has been taking up with both BSNL and DOT the difficulties that the BSNL pensioners desirous to opt for CGHS facility may face due to some ambiguities in the Orders extending the CGHS facility to the BSNL pensioners. Now DOT has issued another Order on 18-10-2016 to remove some practical difficulties faced by the Pension Payment Authorities regarding mentioning of Basic Pay of CDA scale with reference to IDA scale in the PPOs to determine Grade Pay and Ward entitlement.

5) Implementation of web-based Program for monitoring medical claims of retired employees:- To reduce the sufferings of the BSNL Pensioners in getting medical reimbursement, AIBSNLREA has been pursuing to evolve some mechanism so that the Pensioners may know the status of their medical bills. Now we understand that CGM ITPC Pune had sent a program for validation of the Corporate Office. We demand immediate implementation of the web-based Program which will reduce the hardship of the Pensioners.

Organizational Report:-

The executive committee of the State Body meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Ranigunj Coal House to discuss various problems of the Pensioners & enroll the new members. The Membership strength of the State Branch has been steadily increasing which has now exceeded 640. We call upon all the retired executives to enroll membership with AIBSNLREA that will strengthen the organization to reach our goal.

Friends, ours is a mighty organization having its presence all over the country working for the welfare of BSNL retired executives under the experienced leadership since its formation in 2008. We fought a long battle for revision of pension of pre-2007 retirees and despite all odds and sabotage, we could succeed and finally able to achieve the pension revision in 2011. We do hope that this time too, through our sustained efforts and solidarity we would be able to secure justice and protect our legitimate rights and privileges.

Thank you all.

Long live AIBSNLREA.

Comradely yours,
Sd/-

(S.R.Palit)
State Secretary