



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

Central Headquarters

Registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 vide Govt. of NCT Delhi No. S/RS/SW/1161/2014
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Flat No.6, Second Floor, 10/41, Sowrashtanagar 7th Cross Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600094

Email: gensecaibsnlrea@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.aibsnlrea.org>

President

V. Chinnappiah
(M) 9444003300

General Secretary

R.R.Balasubramanian
(M) 9486100613

Financial Secretary

Awadesh Sharma
(M) 9968630008

No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2026/42

Dated: 2nd July 2026

To
Shri Amit Agrawal,
Secretary (Telecom),
Department of Telecommunications,
Sanchar Bhavan,
New Delhi

Subject: Request to take forward the earlier proposal for pension revision of BSNL absorbed pensioners based on 3rd PRC recommended pay scales

Sir,

This letter is with reference to the changed situation following Hon'ble Delhi High Court on 1st July 2026 setting aside the order dated 20.09.2023 of PCAT New Delhi in three OAs, while allowing the writ petitions filed by DoT.

2. We would like to draw your kind attention to DoT's ID Note No. 47-63/2015-Pen(T) (Pt. file) dated 25.08.2022, addressed to DoP&PW, wherein DoT had proposed that *"the benefits of 3rd PRC may be extended to the pensioners by merging the basic and IDA/DR as on 01.01.2017 with NIL fitment factor and placement in the revised pay scales of the 3rd PRC. This would ensure that the pensioners are not placed below the minimum of the 3rd PRC scales. Further, as and when 3rd PRC is implemented in MTNL/BSNL, the same fitment may be extended to all pensioners."*

3. The Note had further stated that *"For removing anomalies vis-a-vis post 01.01.2017 pensioners, the pension of post 2016 pensioners shall be revised on the notional pay derived after merging the basic with IDA as on 01.01.2017. Subsequent pay updations by way of promotion, annual increments etc will be calculated on notional basis till his retirement for post-2017 retirees. In this case, PPO shall be prepared not on the basis of last pay drawn, but on the basis of notional pay so derived. Hence, the anomaly regarding the past pensioners would be getting more pension"*

than the freshly retired pensioners would be addressed. However, this will require amendment of rule 44 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, which stipulates amount of pension at fifty percent of emoluments or average emoluments, whichever is more beneficial to employees."

4. AIBSNLREA vide its letter dated 14.10.2022 addressed to the then Secretary, DoT had rejected the above proposal solely on the ground that Government orders on 3rd PRC recommendations provided for fitment benefit of 15%, 10% and 5%, and that there was no recommendation for NIL fitment. We had then requested that *"In order that the entire effort by DoT, to find a solution for pension revision of pre-2017 BSNL absorbed pensioners without creating anomaly in respect of BSNL absorbed pensioners retired / retiring after 1.1.20017, does not become futile, corrective measures be immediately caused to be taken before proceeding further."*

5. All the other BSNL pensioner associations too subsequently rejected the NIL-fitment proposal. Thereafter, unconfirmed reports were circulating among pensioners that DoT was examining multiple alternatives with 5%, 10% and 15% fitment, and that the final decision would rest with the Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

6. Meanwhile, the orders of the Hon'ble Principal Bench, CAT, New Delhi in three OAs filed by two BSNL pensioners' associations and one MTNL pensioners' association in September 2023 led DoT to initiate consultations with the Department of Legal Affairs, DoP&PW, DPE and DoE. Subsequently, DoT filed writ petitions before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court on 20.03.2024 assailing the CAT orders.

7. Later, in response to an RTI application seeking copy of DoT proposals with higher fitment, DoE confirmed that a proposal from DoT was under examination by its EV Section, though the copy was not shared as no decision had been taken on the proposal yet. DoT too was not willing to share the proposal, understandably, as the matter was sub-judice by then.

8. Now that the legal process has concluded—with the Hon'ble Delhi High Court allowing the writ petitions filed by DoT and setting aside the orders of the PCAT—and given our considered belief that the applicant associations are unlikely to pursue any further litigation before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, AIBSNLREA submits that DoT may now resume and take forward the proposal from the point at which it was paused.

9. The core issue remains unresolved. Revision of pay scales of BSNL employees under 3rd PRC has not taken place, leaving BSNL absorbed pensioners without any pension revision since 01.01.2017. In this situation, DoT's initiative of 25.08.2022, and the subsequent efforts to explore fitment options consistent with DPE recommendations, can provide a viable pathway. Any acceptable solution must ensure at least 5% fitment and must avoid disparity in pension between pre-2017 and post-2017 retirees, which was also acknowledged in the 2022 proposal.

10. AIBSNLREA therefore earnestly urges DoT to take forward its proposals with the Department of Expenditure, incorporating DPE-recommended fitment options, so that a practical,

lasting and viable solution is achieved for the long-pending pension revision of BSNL absorbed pensioners in the 3rd PRC recommended pay scales, without creating disparity in pension between pre-2017 and post-2017 pensioners.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


2/7/26

(R.R.Balasubramanian)
General Secretary

Copy to: 1. Shri V. Vualnam,
Secretary, DoE
2. Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma,
Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW