



## Editorial

### LET THE ORDEALS OF THE YEAR 2020 END

**T**he year 2020, though finally has receded into the history, will always be remembered as a year in which the very existence of the mankind was threatened. Corona virus, which started from Wuhan City of China during late 2019, spread all over the world – even remote and isolated Antarctica was not spared. This deadly virus took away crores of lives and even now it continues to create havoc. It did not distinguish between rich and poor. With no clue to the virus and no definite line of treatment, people had to virtually surrender before it. Thanks to the medical fraternity which bravely fought against the unknown virus and brought back innumerable number of people from the jaws of certain death. Now it is told that a new variant of Covid has been found which is said to be more contagious though not more deadly. Only point of hope is that Scientists have finally developed some vaccines. India is also among a few of the countries in the world which has developed its own vaccines. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin developed indigenously in collaboration with the country's top medical research body ICMR is under late phase trials. Hopefully, the vaccination process may start early for which Government has planned some elaborate arrangements. How far people will be protected by these vaccines will be known only after the vaccination process is over. We have already lost one full year in our lifetime. Let us hope and pray that the year 2021 gives us freedom from

virtual captivity at home and other restrictions. Let us again start breathing in fresh air by breaking the present artificial barrier which kept us separated from our relations and friends.

**T**he year 2020 was practically a nightmare for us i.e. the BSNL IDA pensioners. With no reimbursement of medical claims for both hospital and outdoor treatment, the retired employees were forced to fend for themselves. Even the annual ceiling limit for outdoor claims for past pensioners was drastically reduced by BSNL Management. Common and personal grievances of the retirees received no attention and even got rejected with no valid ground. Rules, laws were replaced with whims. There was none to come to the rescue of the hapless BSNL IDA pensioners. The Grievance Redressal Mechanisms introduced by the Government also proved to be a total failure. Voices of the pensioners did not reach the highest authority in the Government. The Officers and their subordinates at the Corporate Office and field units were also found totally unconcerned and unhelpful. DOT i.e. the administrative department of BSNL was also found absolutely unsupportive. Perhaps, the Chair that they are now occupying made them to feel as if they will occupy the positions forever. They forgot that one day they also will be out of their Offices and may have to face same problem that the present day's retirees are facing.

**T**he year 2020 also saw largest exodus of the employees from BSNL. Nearly 80,000 employees were apparently forced to leave BSNL under BSNL VRS-2019 on 31.01.2020. BSNL Management wanted to make BSNL further slim with the unfounded claim that this was the best way to make BSNL financially viable. But the situation prevailing in BSNL even after a lapse 11 long months clearly signals that this was not a correct approach. Even now the employees are not receiving the salary on time, medical claims are remaining unpaid, vendors are not getting their timely payments. The VRS-retirees are also being denied their legitimate dues. As a result, same chaos, as was prevailing before VRS still continues unabated. The

long-awaited pay scale revision also eluded the BSNL employees. Consequently, the pensioners have also been deprived of their pension revision. Over and above, the Industrial Dearness Allowance for the CPSEs due from 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 and 01.04.2021 have also been ordered to be frozen. Thus, the year 2020 will also be remembered as the year which inflicted great pain on the BSNL IDA pensioners.

**N**ow let us hope that the year 2021 brings some ray of hope to the BSNL IDA pensioners and ordeal of the year 2020 in all fronts comes to an end. ☹



★ ≡ [IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MONTH] ≡ ★

- Government further extended the last date for filing Income Tax Returns for the assessment year 2020-21 to 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.
- BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-ADMN/80/2/2020-ADMN dated 28.12.2020, constituted a Committee headed by Sr. GM(PDC) as its Chairman to

decide the modalities and other issues related to the proposal to extend concessional FTTH connection in lieu of existing concessional broadband connection to the below JAG level Officers.

- Since some empanelled hospitals are refusing admission to CGHS beneficiaries, especially COVID-19 patients with the excuse that no bed is available in the entitled category of ward, CGHS has ordered that in case of emergency when beds are not available in the hospital, necessary treatment be given to stabilize the patient and then transported safely to nearest empanelled hospital for further management. It has warned that if any complaint is received, strict action will be taken as per MOA
- Director (HR), BSNL issued a D.O. letter to all the Heads of Telecom Circles and other Administrative Units, vide his D.O. No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/8/2020-ESTAB dated 01.12.2020, advising them to complete the pending activities related to VRS optees latest by 05.12.2020 in order to expedite payment of 4<sup>th</sup> instalment of Ex-gratia to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees.
- BSNL, vide its No. BSNLCO-STG/12(11)/7/2020-RSTG dated 10.11.2020, issued Orders constituting a Committee headed by CGMT, Kerala as its Chairman to examine the existing requirement of Training Centres and location of these centres vis-a-vis restructuring of these Training Centres
- Dept of Health & Family Welfare issued an OM, vide its File No. S.14025/43/2020-EHS dated 14.12.2020 which is effective from 16.06.2020, allowing reimbursement of cost of 'Pulse Oximeter' upto a maximum limit of Rs. 1200/- for the family of Covid-19 positive CS(MA) beneficiaries. CGHS beneficiaries were already allowed this benefit vide F. No. 1-2/2020/CGHS/ADHQ/29 dated 16.06.2020 by D.G. CGHS with same conditions.



## ISSUES TAKEN UP

**30.12.2020 AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL TO CONSIDER SIMULTANEOUS EXTENSION OF FTTH FACILITY IN LIEU OF EXISTING BROADBAND CONNECTION TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES:** In the background that BSNL has constituted a Committee to decide the modalities and other issues related to the proposal to extend concessional FTTH connection in lieu of existing concessional broadband connection to the below JAG level Officers, AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (HR), BSNL stating that the BSNL Order constituting the Committee is silent on the issue of extending same facility to the retired BSNL employees. Since the retired BSNL employees below JAG level are also allowed concessional broadband connection at their residence, vide BSNL No. 2-06/2005-PHA(Pt) dated 22.03.2013, non-inclusion of their case to extend concessional FTTH connection in lieu of existing concessional broadband connection is quite unfortunate. The Association has requested Director (HR) to consider simultaneous extension of concessional FTTH

facility to the retired BSNL employees at their residence in lieu of concessional broadband connection. [View the letter](#)

**28.12.2020 AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO PGM (PERS), BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE REGARDING ISSUE OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION ORDER AND RELEASE OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION, OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI S V ROJED, RETD SDE, QUALITY ASSURANCE CIRCLE:** With reference to its earlier letter to PGM (Pers), BSNL Corporate Office vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/139 dated 09.11.2020 on the above issue[ View posting dated 09.11.2020 in this website to read the letter], AIBSNLREA has again addressed a letter stating that no order has so far been issued by Personnel Branch of Corporate Office permitting the affected pensioner Shri S V Rojed, Retd SDE to permanently retire from service w.e.f. 31.03.2012 and allowing grant of final superannuation pension and other pensionary benefits. As a result, the pensioner is not getting his legitimate pensionary benefits. Pointing out that even Quality Assurance & Inspection Circle, Jabalpur has also taken up the matter with Personnel Branch, the Association has requested for early resolution of the issue. [View the letter](#)

**24.12.2020 AIBSNLREA REQUESTS SECRETARY (TELECOM) TO ADVISE DOT TO RELEASE FUND TO BSNL FOR PAYMENT OF BALANCE AMOUNT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES:** Since BSNL has stated in its letter to AIBSNLREA, vide No. 32-904/2018-Pen(B) dated 21.12.2020, that “The balance of ex-gratia amount will be paid when funds are provided by DOT, Govt of India”, the Association has addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) to advise DOT to immediately release the Fund to BSNL to make payment of balance amount of ex-gratia to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees. The Association has also expressed its surprise that DOT is not releasing the fund to BSNL for payment of ex-gratia when the Government had committed to pay the same during Q-1 of FY 2020-21. [View the letter](#)

**08.12.2020 AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING DENIAL BY CBDT TO CLARIFY/ADVISE ON TREATING THE UNPAID AMOUNT FALSELY CLAIMED BY BSNL IN FORM 26AS FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2020-21 AS HAVING CREDITED SOME AMOUNT TO FACILITATE SUBMISSION OF INCOME TAX RETURNS BY THE AFFECTED BSNL PENSIONERS:** Being aggrieved due to virtual denial of clarification/advice by BSNL on the above issue by Central Board of Direct Taxes, AIBSNLREA has now submitted a representation to the Prime Minister of India. The Association has stated that since CBDT has disposed of the grievance without issuing much needed clarification/advice, the affected Pensioners are now back at the same position as they cannot include these unpaid amounts, as shown in Form-26AS, in their income to file Income Tax Return for the assessment year 2020-21. CBDT has disposed of the Grievance stating that ‘The request for payment of medical reimbursement to the pensioners is an internal administrative issue which shall be dealt by the concerned department of BSNL. However, the BSNL had been requested to look into the matter and positively dispose off the grievance as per the rules of BSNL. Therefore, this grievance is disposed off’. Since BSNL does not have any separate rules in respect of deduction of TDS on unpaid amount, it cannot issue any clarification/advice on the subject and resolve the grievance. In fact, CBDT is the sole authority to issue instructions/clarifications on Income Tax related Rules. Thus, the

Association has requested Prime Minister of India to advise CDBT to issue the requested clarification/advice, so that the affected BSNL IDA pensioners do not face any problem while filing their Income Tax Returns for the assessment year 2020-21 by 31.12.2020. [View the letter](#)

**07.12.2020 AIBSNLREA SUBMITS TWO MORE CASES FOR COMPLETION OF PENDING ACTIVITIES IN REGARD TO BSNL VRS-2019 HAVING IMPACT ON EX-GRATIA:** In continuation to its earlier representation, vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/149 dated 03.04.2020, AIBSNLREA cites two more cases of VRS-retirees needing to be resolved as part of actions to complete the pending activities in regard to BSNL VRS-2019 for assessment of requirement of total fund for payment of 4<sup>th</sup> and final instalment of Ex-Gratia to the VRS-retirees. The Association has cited the cases of Shri Ajay Kumar Dubey, Retd AGM, Agra Telecom District for restoration of the Order earlier issued by UP (West) Telecom Circle but subsequently cancelled following a direction from Establishment Branch of Corporate Office. Shri Dubey was rightly allowed to get the benefit of pre-appointment training to be counted as service under Rule-22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 by condonation of the administration delay in issuing his appointment letter. Even BSNL Corporate Office had earlier clarified at point No. 2 of FAQ on BSNL VRS-2019 issued vide its F.No. 1-125/2019-PAT(BSNL)-Part dated 22.11.2019 that the VRS-retirees are entitled to receive this benefit. The Association has also cited the case of Shri R J Christopher Girigori Raj, Retd SDE, Thanjavur who is yet to receive the benefit of counting of the period spent on training as service for the purpose of pension under the same Rule-22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. Association has further requested to resolve these cases since these are having impact on fund required to make 4th and final instalment of Ex-gratia. [View the letter](#)

**03.12.2020 NON-ADHERENCE TO THE TIMELINES FIXED BY BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE FOR COMPLETION OF PENDING ACTIVITIES IN REGARD TO BSNL VRS-2019 HAVING IMPACT ON EX-GRATIA- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP A FEW PENDING CASES WITH DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL:** With reference to the D.O. No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/8/2020-ESTAB dated 01.12.2020 addressed to all Heads of Telecom Circles/Administrative Units by Director (HR), BSNL advising them to complete the pending activities in regard to BSNL VRS-2019 before 05.12.2020, AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (HR) drawing his attention to a few long pending unresolved cases of the VRS retirees which need to be resolved immediately. The Association has expressed its anguish that despite issue of instructions/guidelines and advice from time to time to the Circles in regard to settlement of pending leave encashment cases, time-bound financial upgradations under EPP/NEPP etc having impact on Ex-gratia amount, a few Circles are not taking the matter seriously. In addition, non-settlement of pay-fixation of some officiating JTOs, who opted for fitment in revised pay-scales from the date of their promotion under Para 3.6 of BSNL Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2020, having impact on Ex-Gratia payment, are also not being settled despite issue of clarifications by Establishment Branch. In this regard, the Association has cited the case for Leave encashment of Shri B M Nyamati, Retd CAO, Bangalore Telecom District, Time Bound Financial upgradation cases of Shri G S Hugar, Retd AO, Gulbarga Telecom District and the case for restoration of pay-fixation of the officiating JTOs of Calcutta Telephones who were promoted in 2008. The Association has further stated that "If these cases are not settled now and the final Ex-gratia amount is finalized by excluding these cases, it may become extremely difficult in the future for BSNL to raise claim for left out amount with

DoT/Government and it is likely that BSNL will have to pay the ex-gratia in all such cases by arranging Fund of its own". AIBSNLREA has, thus, requested for personal intervention of Director (HR) in the matter so that all these cases of the VRS retirees are settled at the earliest by the respective Circles without any further delay. [View the letter](#)

**02.12.2020 AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL ON NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE ADVICE GIVEN BY HIM TO THE CIRCLES REGARDING PAYMENT OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT OF BSNL-2019 RETIREES WHOSE VIGILANCE CLEARANCE IS WITH HELD- CITES THE CASE OF SHRI B. M. NYAMATI, RETD CAO, BANGALORE TELECOM DISTRICT:** AIBSNLREA has now addressed a letter to Director (HR), BSNL drawing his attention about non-compliance of his advice given to all Heads of Telecom Circles, vide F. No. BSNLCO-EB-I/11/(20)-ESTAB dated 16.10.2020, to process all the pending leave encashment cases of the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees including the cases of those against whom vigilance clearance is withheld, by Karnataka Telecom Circle. The Association has cited the case of Shri B. M. Nyamati, Retd CAO, Bangalore Telecom District (HR No. 98311455) whose case appears at Serial No. 98 of the above quoted Office instructions. The Association has stated that the case was earlier taken up on few occasions with CGMT, Karnataka Circle which once replied that "vigilance clearance is awaited". Subsequently, it replied that "vigilance case proceeding are to be dealt in accordance with BSNL CDA rules 2006 ..", even though the instant case is for release of leave encashment and not about the pending vigilance case. Karnataka Telecom Circle seems to have taken no pains even to go through the BSNL Office Order, issued vide F. No. BSNLCO-EB-I/11/(20)-ESTAB dated 06.05.2020 giving detailed guidelines to process the leave encashment cases of the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees against whom vigilance clearance is withheld. The Association has also requested for personal intervention of Director (HR) in the matter so that Karnataka Telecom Circle immediately release the over-delayed leave encashment to the affected pensioner i.e. Shri B M Nyamati, Retd CAO (HR No. 98311455), Bangalore Telecom District. [View the letter](#)

**02.12.2020 FLOUTING OF CABINET DECISION BY DOT/BSNL REGARDING PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES- AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister on the above issue and pointed out that "DOT/BSNL is stretching the issue regarding payment of ex-gratia to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees. Though Cabinet decided to make full payment of ex-gratia by second instalment which was to be paid during first quarter of this financial year which ended on 30th June, 2020, till now only about 92% of the payment has been made and that too in three instalments. DOT is not making available the required fund to clear the remaining dues". The Association has sought the intervention of Prime Minister so that the balance amount of ex-gratia is paid to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees without further delay. [View the letter](#)

**01.12.2020 CALCUTTA TELEPHONES NOW SAYS THAT IT RECEIVED NO METHODOLOGY FOR PAY FIXATION OF OFFICIATING JTOs REGULARIZED IN 2008 FROM CORPORATE OFFICE AND ACTED ON THE GUIDANCE OF CCA, KOLKATA- AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SR GM (ESTT), BSNL POINTING OUT THAT CALCUTTA TELEPHONES IS NOT ABLE TO READ THE RELEVANT ORDERS ISSUED FROM TIME TO TIME AND ALSO THE CLARIFICATIONS ISSUED ON 28.10.2020 TO CTD ON ITS REQUEST:** Since Calcutta Telephones has sent a mail on 25.11.2020 to AIBSNLREA stating that "no methodology for pay fixation of officiating JTO who have regularised on

12.02.2008 issued till date from BSNL, Corporate Office. Whatever the fixation has been made, it was as per guideline given by CCA office, Kolkata”, the Association has taken up the issue with Sr General Manager (Estt), BSNL. The Association has conveyed that it seems that Calcutta Telephones has lost its senses and is not able to read relevant Orders issued from time to time on the subject including the clarifications issued, vide No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020, on the request of Calcutta Telephones. The Association has further added that ‘It is really a pity that Calcutta Telephones feels that “no methodology for pay fixation of officiating JTO who have regularised on 12.02.2008 issued till date from BSNL, Corporate Office”. If that be the case, how and based on which methodology, Calcutta Telephones had earlier fixed the pay of these Officiating JTOs and drew their salary all these years. It is also a serious matter that Calcutta Telephones, though a Unit of BSNL and administratively and financially controlled by BSNL has to seek/take guidance from CCA, Kolkata on pay-fixation matters instead of approaching BSNL Corporate Office in case of any doubt. Problem with Calcutta Telephones is that it is failing to distinguish between the BSNL Order No.5-32/2013/Estt.IV dated 22.12.2015 on fixation of officiating pay of the JTOs that was allowed under FR. 22(i)(a)(i) in place of FR-35 as per Principal CAT Delhi Order and finally upheld by Hon’ble Supreme Court as confirmed by BSNL No. 3-8/2010-Estt-IV(Pt) dated 18.09.2018 on one hand and the fitment in the revised IDA pay scale as per option exercised under Para 3.6 of BSNL No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2020 on the other hand. Both the cases are different and different orders/fitment methods are applicable in these cases’. Finally, the Association has requested to advise Calcutta Telephones to resolve the present issue in the light of the clarifications issued vide No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020 as was earlier represented by the Association, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/143 dated 16.11.2020. The Association further stated that perhaps Calcutta Telephones also needs to be advised to seek clarification/guidance on such issues only from BSNL Corporate Office and not from others. [View the letter](#)



## ACTION ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

**31.12.2020 KARNATAKA CIRCLE RESPONDS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO DIRECTOR (HR) REGARDING PENDING TIME BOUND FINANCIAL UPGRADATION CASES OF SHRI G.S.HUGAR, RETD AO, KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE:** In response to the representation of AIBSNLREA, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/149 dated 03.12.2020 (view posting dated 03.12.2020 in this website to read the letter) with Grievance Docket No. DOPPW/E/2020/28673, addressed to Director (HR) regarding non-settlement of two consecutive time bound financial upgradation cases of Shri G.S.Hugar, Retd AO, the Karnataka Circle has now reported that “4<sup>th</sup> TBU is under consideration & will be resolved within one month time”. [View the BSNL KTK Status Report](#)

**25.12.2020 KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE RESPONDS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE ISSUE OF NON-GRANT OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT TO SHRI B M NYAMATI, RETD CAO, BANGALORE TELECOM DISTRICT:** AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to the Prime Minister of India, vide its No.

AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/109 dated 25.09.2020, seeking his intervention in the matter of grant of leave encashment to Shri B.M.Nyamati, Retd CAO, Bangalore Telecom District which was repeatedly being denied on flimsy grounds [View posting dated 25.09.2020 in this website to read the letter]. In response to the above, Karnataka Telecom Circle, while disposing of the Grievance Docket on the issue, has now stated that “Leave encashment has been approved. Payment will be made along with salary of BSNL employees for Dec-2020.”

[View the BSNL KTK Report](#)

**25.12.2020 RESPONSE FROM KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO CMD, BSNL IN THE MATTER OF ISSUE OF FINAL RETIREMENT ORDER AND RELEASE OF OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI G.P.BIRADAR, RETD DE, BANGALORE**

**TD:** AIBSNLREA had represented to CMD, BSNL vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/67 dated 05.08.2020 requesting early issue of final retirement Orders, payment of final superannuation pension and release of DCRG, CVP etc to Shri G.P.Biradar, Retd DE, Bangalore Telecom District [View posting dated 05.08.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Karnataka Telecom Circle, while disposing of the Grievance Docket on the issue, has stated that “The officer retired on 31-12-2010. He has requested for final superannuation pension, release of leave encashment, DCRG & commuted value of pension. At the time of retirement, a CBI court case was pending against him. He has been exonerated by the designated court at Dharwad. To meet the above demands, VC is required. Action for seeking VC is under process. On receipt of VC, all eligible payments will be made.” [View the BSNL KTK Report](#)

**25.12.2020 KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE RESPONDS TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO THE CGMT, KARNATAKA REGARDING FINANCIAL UPGRADATION CASE OF SHRI I.S.NAVALI, RETD SDE:**

**AIBSNLREA** had represented to CGMT, Karnataka Circle, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/69 dated 05.08.2020, for issue of Orders granting Time Bound Financial upgradation to Shri I S Navali, Retd SDE, Gulbarga [View posting dard 05.08.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Karnataka Circle has stated that “... After his exoneration, VC has been obtained & other retirement benefits have been paid. Pay upgradation case is also under consideration and is likely to be resolved in a month time”.

[View the BSNL KTK Report](#)

**25.12.2020 BSNL REPLIES TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING FLOUTING OF CABINET DECISION FOR PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES:**

**AIBSNLREA**, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/147 dated 02.12.2020, had drawn the attention of Prime Minister of India regarding flouting of Cabinet decision by DOT/BSNL in the matter of payment of ex-gratia to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees [View posting dated 02.12.2020 in this website to read the letter]. BSNL has responded to the said representation, vide its F.No. BSNLCO-A/11(12)/3/2020-ESTAB dated 23.12.2020, again stating that “... payment of exgratia, pending, if any will be paid as and when the funds are made available by Government of India”. [View the BSNL letter](#)

**24.12.2020 WRONG REVISED PAY FIXATION CASES OF THE TTAs OFFICIATING AS JTOs WHO OPTED FOR PAY FIXATION IN REVISED 2<sup>ND</sup> PRC SCALE FROM THE DATE OF THEIR PROMOTION– CTD SAYS IT REVISED PAY BASED ON LAST CLARIFICATION ISSUED BY BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE:**

**AIBSNLREA** had earlier requested Secretary (Telecom) to advise BSNL



Corporate Office to issue necessary clarifications as sought for by Calcutta Telephones in connection with fixation of pay of the officiating JTOs who opted for fixation in revised 2<sup>nd</sup> PRC scale from the date of their promotion [view posting dated 01.10.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Calcutta Telephones has responded to the said letter and has stated that “Pay fixation was made as per audit enforcement received from CCA. Para 3.6 of BSNL No. 1-16/2010-PAT (BSNL) dated 07.05.2010 was considered, further the pay has been revised as per Last Clarification received from BSNLCO”. [View the BSNL CTD letter](#)

**24.12.2020 BSNL RESPONDS TO THE REQUEST OF AIBSNLREA TO ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CIRCLES TO SETTLE ALL LEFT OUT CASES OF FINANCIAL UPGRADATION UNDER EPP/NEPP IN A TIME BOUND MANNER:** Following issue of instruction by Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office to the Circles to complete all pending cases of financial upgradation under EPP/NEPP to the VRS retirees before 31.08.2020 which were due before their retirement, AIBSNLREA had pointed out that there are many other BSNL retirees whose financial upgradation under EPP/NEPP were due before their retirement, but are yet to be settled and accordingly requested to cause issue of similar instructions to the Circles to complete all the pending cases for grant of financial upgradation under EPP/NEPP to the BSNL retirees which were due before their retirement in a time bound manner [View posting dated 01.09.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now BSNL, in its reply, has stated that “... necessary instructions for grant of EPP/NEPP to eligible executives/non executives have been issued by the concerned units of BSNL. As such no separate instructions are required to be issued”. [View the BSNL letter](#)

**23.12.2020 THANJAVUR SSA OF TAMILNADU CIRCLE NOW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION REGARDING NON-INCLUSION OF TRAINING PERIOD IN SERVICE BOOK IN RESPECT OF SHRI R J CHRISTOPHER GIRIGORI RAJ, RETD SDE FOR COUNTING AS SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PENSION:** AIBSNLREA had taken up the above case with Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW, since Tamilnadu Circle had closed the earlier grievance without resolving the issue [View posting dated 14.09.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now, Thanjavur SSA of Tamilnadu Circle has stated in the Remarks column of the registered Grievance Docket that “Training period added for the 4<sup>th</sup> Ex-gratia payment to Mr. Christopher..”. [View the Status Report.](#)

**23.12.2020 BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION TO SECRETAY (TELECOM) REGARDING NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISION FOR PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES:** In a letter addressed to Secretary (Telecom), AIBSNLREA had pointed out that though Cabinet decided that 50% of the balance amount of Ex-gratia to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees would be paid latest by 30th June, 2020, the said decision has not been fully implemented. The Association also requested his intervention so that the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees receive their balance of ex-gratia payment immediately. BSNL has now replied to the representation stating that “The balance of ex-gratia amount will be paid when funds are provided by DOT, Govt of India”. [View the BSNL letter](#)

**23.12.2020 BSNL REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION TO MOSC REGARDING ISSUE OF ORDERS BY DOT IN THE LINE OF THE ORDERS ISSUED BY DEPT OF POSTS ADVISING THE PAOs IN CCA OFFICES TO RESTRICT SCRUTINY OF SERVICE RECORDS OF RETIRING EMPLOYEES**

**PRIOR TO 24 MONTHS BEFORE RETIREMENT:** In order to stop harassment of the retiring employees, AIBSNLREA had requested Minister of State for Communications for issue of Orders by Dept of Telecommunications in the line of Department of Posts advising the PAOs in the CCA Offices to restrict the scrutiny of service books and other documents of the retiring employees to 24 months prior to date of their retirement as provided in provided in Rule 7.3.2 of Chapter 7 of the 'Civil Accounts Manual for the HOD and Pay and Accounts Officer' [View posting dated 08.09.2020 in this website to read the letter]. BSNL has since replied that issue of similar instructions as requested does not fall within the purview of BSNL. [View the BSNL letter](#)

**21.12.2020 DOP&T AGAIN REFUSES TO EXTEND THE BENEFIT OF GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FALLING DUE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY OF RETIREMENT AS PER MADRAS HIGH COURT JUDGMENT TO ALL SIMILARLY PLACED PERSONS:** Department of Personnel & Training, vide its letter No. 19/2/2020-Estt. (Pay-I) dated 16.11.2020, has again refused to extend the benefit of notional increment falling due on the next day of retirement in the light of Madras High Court judgment for pensionary benefits in a particular case to all similarly placed retirees. DOP&T has taken the same view that “.. the judgment of Hon’ble High Court in W.P. No. 15732/2019 in the case of Shri Ayyamperumal, is in *personam*, i.e. specific to the case of petitioner only”. This response from DOP&T is on our representation to Prime Minister of India since uploaded in our website on 03.10.2020. [View the DOP&T letter](#)

**08.12.2020 CBDT SIDE-TRACKS REQUEST TO CLARIFY/ADVISE ON TREATING FALSE CLAIM MADE BY BSNL IN FORM 26AS FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2020-21 TO HAVE CREDITED SOME AMOUNT TO THE ASSESSES WITHOUT MAKING ACTUAL PAYMENT:** AIBSNLREA had requested Minister of State for Finance, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/59 dated 15.07.2020 (view posting dated 15.07.2020 in this website to read the letter), for issue of a clarification/advice on how to treat the unpaid amount which has been falsely claimed by BSNL in Form 26AS uploaded in IT Department’s website while filing the Income Tax Returns by the BSNL IDA pensioners. After 4 months of wait, Central Board of Direct Taxes has disposed of the Grievance Docket No. PMOPG/E/2020/0700945 on 04.12.2020 with the following Remarks: “As reported the complainant has mentioned in the complaint that TDS amount has been shown in their 26AS report falsely as having credited some amounts by BSNL for which even TDS has been shown as deposited. When none of the pensioners have been paid the amount, purportedly as part of reimbursement of their long pending Medical Claims. Their request is to advise Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to look into the matter and issue necessary clarification early to facilitate submission of the ITR at the earliest by the affected BSNL IDA Pensioners. The TDS made is even reflected in the 26AS statement of the complainant. The request for payment of medical reimbursement to the pensioners is an internal administrative issue which shall be dealt by the competent department of BSNL. However, BSNL had been requested to look into the matter and positively dispose off the grievance as per the rules of BSNL. Therefore, this grievance is disposed off”.



## GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS AND LETTERS

### 30.12.2020 BSNL CONSTITUTES A COMMITTEE FOR EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONAL FTTH CONNECTION FACILITY FOR BELOW JAG LEVEL:

BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-ADMN/80/2/2020-ADMN dated 28.12.2020, has constituted a three-member Committee with Sr. GM(PDC) as its Chairman to decide the modalities and other issues related to the proposal to extend concessional FTTH connection in lieu of existing concessional broadband connection to the below JAG level Officers and submit the report within 15 days for perusal of competent authority. [View the BSNL Order](#)

**23.12.2020 EMPANELLED HOSPITALS REFUSING ADMISSION TO CGHS BENEFICIARIES ESPECIALLY COVID-19 PATIENTS- CGHS REITERATES TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPANELMENT:** Observing that empanelled hospitals are refusing admission to CGHS beneficiaries, especially COVID-19 patients with the excuse that no bed is available in the entitled category of ward, CGHS has issued guidelines that in case of emergency when beds are not available in the hospital, necessary treatment should be given to stabilize the patient and then transported safely to nearest empanelled hospital for further management. It has also warned that if any complaint is received, strict action will be taken as per MOA. [View CGHS OM](#)

**17.12.2020 DOT POINTS OUT THAT 291 STAFF RELATED GRIEVANCES ARE PENDING UNDER DIFFERENT HEADS IN BSNL CPGRAMS AS ON 31.10.2020 - BSNL ADVISES CIRCLES TO SEND THE SPECIFIC FUND REQUEST FOR SETTLEMENT OF CPGRAMS CASES IMMEDIATELY:** According to an analysis by the DoT, 291 staff related grievances are pending with BSNL as on 31.10.2020, which includes 138 grievances related to Pension or other retirement benefit and another 51 related to Employees/Staff grievance. BSNL admits that majority of the grievances under CPGRAMS are pending for more than one year. BSNL letter also states that it is evident that majority of the grievances are related to non-settlement of dues/bills/claims of both working and retired employees and that in this regard CBB division of BSNL CO vide letter dated 04.12.2020 has advised all Circles to send the specific fund request for settlement of CPGRAMS cases immediately. It also conveys that the grievances which are pending due to financial constraints or due to other reasons may be considered for disposal by apprising the status to the complainant including the financial constraints and timeline. The list of pending grievances is also attached. It is to be mentioned that out of the 291 grievances pending, 24 (nearly 10%) are those filed by AIBSNLREA. [View BSNL letter](#)

**16.12.2020 REIMBURSEMENT OF COST OF 'PULSE OXIMETER' FOR THE FAMILY OF COVID-19 POSITIVE CS(MA) BENEFICIARIES- DEPT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ISSUES ORDERS:** Department of Health & Family Welfare has issued an OM, vide its File No. S.14025/43/2020-EHS dated 14.12.2020, allowing reimbursement of cost of 'Pulse Oximeter' for the family of Covid-19 positive CS(MA) beneficiaries. Reimbursement shall be allowed as per actual cost of pulse of oximeter subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1200/- and only one pulse oximeter per positive Covid-19 affected family will be reimbursed. This O.M. is effective from 16.06.2020. The CGHS beneficiaries were already allowed reimbursement of cost of 'Pulse Oximeter' vide F. No. 1-2/2020/CGHS/ADHQ/29 dated 16.06.2020 by D.G.

CGHS with same conditions. [View Orders for CGHS beneficiaries](#) [View Orders for CS\(MA\) beneficiaries](#)

**07.12.2020 BSNL CONSTITUTES COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING-CLOSURE OF RTTCs:** BSNL, vide its No. BSNLCO-STG/12(11)/7/2020-RSTG dated 10.11.2020, had issued Orders constituting a Committee headed by CGMT, Kerala as its Chairman to examine the existing requirement of Training Centres and location of these centres vis-a-vis restructuring of these Training Centres as contained in its earlier Order dated 14.01.2020 and submit report. [View the BSNL Order](#)

**02.12.2020 DIRECTOR (HR) WRITES TO ALL HEADS OF TELECOM CIRCLES/HEADS OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS REGARDING COMPLETION OF PENDING ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO BSNL VRS-2019:** Despite repeated instructions from BSNL Corporate Office emphasising the need to complete all the pending activities in regard to BSNL VRS 2019, the Circles have failed to adhere to the given timelines for completion of VRS related activities. This has delayed payment of 4<sup>th</sup> and final instalment of ex-gratia to the VRS retirees. Now Director (HR) has issued a D.O. letter to all the Heads of Telecom Circles and other Administrative Units, vide his D.O. No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/8/2020-ESTAB dated 01.12.2020, to complete the pending activities related to VRS optees latest by 05.12.2020. The pending activities include updation/correction of ERP data, pending cases, if any, for grant of time bound financial upgradation under EPP/NEPP, verification of Annexure-D by respective CCAs in cases requiring correction in PPO(s) and initiation/verification of final Sanction in ERP/SAP. [View the DO letter of Director \(HR\), BSNL](#)



## STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING DECEMBER 2020

**Vadodara Branch (Gujarat State)** has paid Rupees one thousand nine hundred (Rs. 1900/-) only by Cheque dated 24.11.2020 drawn on UCO Bank on account of CHQ quota for 7 new Life Members (Rs. 1400/-) and contribution for Court Case (Rs. 500/-) from Shri N G Desai which has since been credited in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 22.12.2020.

**Varanasi Branch (UP State)** has deposited Rupees eight hundred (Rs. 800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with syndicate Bank on 14.12.2020 as CHQ quota for four new Life Members.

**Erode Branch (Tamilnadu State)** has deposited Rupees Two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with syndicate Bank on 07.12.2020 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

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