



Editorial

WILD GOOSE CHASE GAME

Information that are being circulated from time to time regarding the issues like revision of pay scales of BSNL employees and revision of pension of past pensioners of the same organization gives an impression that as if a wild goose chase game is underway. Once it was reported that the MOSC was in favour of revision of pay scales of BSNL Employees despite the rider attached to the issue in the shape of an affordability clause in the DPE Order for revision of pay scales. It was also told that the MOSC wanted a note to be prepared to seek approval of the cabinet. Subsequently, it was told that DOT has agreed to allow only 5% fitment benefit though it was not found acceptable by the BSNL unions/associations negotiating the issue. Immediately thereafter, it was told that DOT is now not agreeing even for 5% fitment benefit. Similarly, it was told that DOT has taken a decision to delink the pension revision of BSNL pensioners from Pay revision of the employees and revise the pension as per 7th CPC. But a DOT letter sent to BSNL Management confirmed that there was such no decision by DOT to delink pension revision from pay scale revision. It was also revealed that DOP&W had communicated to DOT that pension revision as per 7th CPC recommendations is only for the CDA pensioners.

The above state of affairs gives a very poor picture about the understanding of these crucial issues by some unions and associations who are busy only in beating their own drums and also absence of any concrete plan from their part to find solution to these two vital issues. Moreover, petty politics seems to have taken over their senses and they are keeping at bay many other unions/associations who have different views and approach. Thus, they are failing to present a united face and not able to impress the management the need for urgent solution of these two issues.

We cannot overlook the fact that the 3rd PRC recommendations and the DPE Order on pay revision conveyed that the fitment benefit is to be finally allowed based on the additional financial impact of the full revised pay package as a percentage of average Profit Before Tax of last 3 Financial Years. Accordingly, it has provided for 15%, 10% and 5% fitment benefit based on three different percentage of Profit before Tax. The said DPE Order further provided that "No fitment or any other benefit of pay revision will be implemented in the CPSEs where the additional financial impact of the revised pay package is more than 40% of the average PBT of last 3 financial years". Even if the affordability clause is relaxed for

BSNL, under no circumstance one can expect DOT to share the additional financial burden. This has to be borne only by BSNL. No doubt BSNL, in its proposal to DOT, has tried to establish that it would be able to bear the burden of additional expenditure to be incurred on its own shoulder. But this has not been found convincing to DOT and BSNL has been asked to provide many more information. As it appears that BSNL will not be able to convince DOT on these issues. Here only the Unions/Associations should put their heads together and sit with BSNL to resolve the connected issues and then pursue the matter with DOT. Unfortunately, this is not happening.

Given the present situation, there is a bright hope for pay revision if the Government is made to agree for pension contribution by BSNL on the basis of actual pay drawn instead of on the maximum of the pay scales. Since this changed methodology to calculate pension contribution for the Government employees deputed on foreign service to other organizations was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2006, same should also be made effective in BSNL w.e.f. 1.1.2006. This will allow BSNL to get back huge amount of money which has already been deposited with DOT. If this happens and it must, BSNL will certainly be on a much better financial footing to allow the revision of pay scales. Though DOT has taken up the issue with DOE, we feel that DOT is moving in wrong direction. If the Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) is to be believed, Cabinet had already cleared a proposal of DOT in respect of MTNL absorbed employees on 26.12.2013 that MTNL has to pay pension

contribution w.e.f. 1.1.2006 calculated on actual pay instead of maximum of the IDA scales. Surprisingly, DOT has not implemented this Cabinet decision till this day. DOT must implement this decision of Cabinet now for MTNL absorbed employees and then extend the same principle for BSNL. This is an easy solution. But for the reasons best known to DOT, the issue is being processed in a wrong way and this invited series of unwarranted queries from DOE on DOT's current proposal. We feel that all stake holders in BSNL must take up the issue strongly. On our part, we have already taken up the issue with Prime Minister of India and also separately with Cabinet Secretary.

As regards pension revision, it will automatically be due with pay scale revision as per order of Supreme Court and also the principle laid down by V Central Pay Commission since being meticulously followed by Government for decades. We all are to understand that after the clarification that DOP&PW has now given, there is no further scope to run after pension revision as per VII CPC. Therefore, all those running after this mirage should now come back to their senses and be prepared to face the reality. All stakeholders should also sincerely try to ensure that both pay scale revision of BSNL employees and pension revision of BSNL retirees find place in the same Cabinet Note for their approval. There is no other option. Let the present Wild Goose Chase game by some unions and associations stop. Let the concerned stake holders not be misguided any more. □

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REQUESTING TO GET THE PRICES OF MEDICINES USED FOR TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASES LIKE DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION DOWN: While welcoming Government's continuous efforts to bring down the cost of several medicines, AIBSNLREA has requested Prime Minister of India also to get the prices of the medicines and insulin required for treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension which need long term treatment and thereby give a huge relief to the patients. *[View posting dated 25.01.2019 in this website to read the letter](#)*

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CABINET SECRETARY REGARDING NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISION TAKEN ON 26.12.2013 APPROVING THE PROPOSAL OF DOT FOR PAYMENT OF PENSION CONTRIBUTION BY MTNL AS PER FR 116 WEF 01.01.2006 ON ACTUAL PAY DRAWN IN IDA SCALES: In a letter addressed to the Cabinet Secretary, AIBSNLREA has drawn his attention regarding non-implementation of the Cabinet decision taken on 26.12.2013 and uploaded in the website of Press Information Bureau, Government of India approving DOT's proposal for change of methodology in pension contribution in respect of the absorbed employees of MTNL as per FR-116 upto 31.12.2005 on the maximum of the IDA pay scales and with effect from 01.01.2006 on the actual pay drawn in the IDA scales. The Association has requested him "to intervene in the matter so that Department of Telecommunication immediately implements the Cabinet decision dated 26.12.2013 in respect of change in methodology in pension contribution as per FR-116 upto 31.12.2005 on the maximum of the IDA pay scales and with effect from 01.01.2006 on the actual pay drawn in the IDA pay scales". *[View posting dated 22.01.2019 in this website to read the letter](#)*

AIBSNLREA AGAIN APPEALS TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA TO INTERVENE IN THE MATTER OF PAYMENT OF PENSION CONTRIBUTION TO DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION IN RESPECT OF PERMANENTLY ABSORBED BSNL AND MTNL EMPLOYEES WHO ARE NO MORE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ON DEPUTATION/FOREIGN SERVICE UNDER SUB-RULE 4 OF RULE 37-A OF CCS (PENSION RULES), 1972: AIBSNLREA again writes to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India against forcing BSNL and MTNL to pay pension contribution under FR-116 to the DOT in respect of its erstwhile employees since permanently absorbed in BSNL/MTNL and who are no more Government employees on deputation/foreign service under Sub-Rule 4 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 after their absorption. The Association points out that FR-116 provides for pension contribution only in respect of the Government employees on deputation/foreign service to other organizations and therefore cannot be made applicable to the absorbed employees of BSNL/MTNL. The Association has pointed out that because of this wrong action of DOT, BSNL and MTNL are facing severe financial crisis.

The Association has further pointed out that the Department of Telecommunication has also not implemented even the DOP&T Order, vide OM No.2/34/2008—Estt. (Pay II) dated 19th November 2009, effective from 1.1.2006 that pension contribution as per FR-116 will have to be calculated based on the actual pay drawn and not on the maximum of the pay scales. Further, Department of Telecommunication has also not implemented a Cabinet decision taken on 26.12.2013, as was

reported by Press Information Bureau, to charge pension contribution w.e.f. 1.1.2006 calculated on the actual pay of the absorbed employees of MTNL.

The Association has finally sought the kind intervention of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India stating that "Since the issue badly tells upon the very existence of BSNL and MTNL due to DOT's unreasonable stand against these two CPSEs and its consequent adverse impact on the legitimate claims of the employees/pensioners like pay scale revision, pension revision, medical reimbursement etc, we seek your kind personal intervention in the matter so that justice is bestowed now". [View posting dated 19.01.2019 in this website to read the letter](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

NON-SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL AND ALSO NON-GRANT OF CONSEQUENT PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI S P CONTRACTOR, RETD SDE, GUJARAT – DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO DOT: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW since there was no response from DOT even after constant persuasion. The Association requested Secretary (Pension) to advise Department of Telecommunications to immediately issue the much-needed Orders for absorption of Shri S P Contractor, Retd SDE who last served in BSNL, Gujarat so that he receives his long pending pensionary benefits and other dues [View posting dated 27/12/2018 in this website]. Now DOP&PW has forwarded the said representation from AIBSNLREA to the Department of Telecommunication to examine the issues as per extant rules/orders and inform the Association accordingly. [View posting dated 08.01.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

REPRESENTATION REQUESTING GRANT OF ANNUAL INCREMENT EVEN ON NOTIONAL BASIS FALLING DUE ON THE DAY FOLLOWING SUPERANNUATION ON COMPLETION OF ONE FULL YEAR SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES- BSNL REPLIES IN NEGATIVE: AIBSNLREA was pursuing the above case since 2015. Subsequently the Association took up the matter afresh after the Madras High Court gave a favourable judgment and Supreme Court also dismissed the SLP of the Government in a case filed by an individual petitioner [View postings dated 01.10.2018 and 08.12.2018 in this website]. Now BSNL has replied to our representation stating that presence of an employee is required on the 1st of the month in which annual increment falls for drawal of annual increment. Since the retired employee cannot join the duty on the 1st day of the month following superannuation which was his annual increment date, the increment cannot be released in case of a retired employee. [View posting dated 05.01.2019 in this website to read the BSNL letter](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.1.2019: DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.1.2019 from 135.6% to 138.8% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. [View posting dated 03.01.2019 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.1.2019: DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.1.2019 from 297.8% to 303.1% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. *View posting dated 03.01.2019 in this website to read the DPE Order*

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, MUMBAI BRANCH HELD: A General Body Meeting of Mumbai Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 20.01.2019 at 14:00hrs in A.O. Hall % DELD Thane in Tekadi Bungalow with Shri N.K. Devassy, Vice President of the branch on the chair. There was very good gathering in spite of mega block of rail. Shri S.P. Varma, Branch Secretary requested all the members to observe 2 minutes silence to pay homage to the departed members. President N.K. Devassy welcomed the members and briefly addressed the house. Shri S.P. Varma, Branch Secretary then read out minutes of the last General Body Meeting which was passed unanimously. He informed the House that this meeting is delayed due to non-availability of the hall due to some religious festivals and many of the members being out of Mumbai. He informed the House about the status of court case on pay and pension arrears issue and 3rd PRC implementation. Members expressed their unhappiness on BSNL management for not implementing recommendations of 3rd PRC with 15% fitment benefit. He also requested the members to participate in large numbers in proposed picnic programme being arranged by the Branch from 3rd March 2019 to 14th March 2019. He replied all the questions raised by the members. Members were quite unhappy for not getting payment of their medical and telephone bills since a long time. He informed the house that fund is not being allotted by BSNL and CHQ has already taken up and pursuing the case. He informed the house about objections raised by CGMM Office for Medical Bills of S.N. Varma who had to undergo By-pass surgery of heart at Noida. It was decided to take up the matter at the appropriate level. He appealed to all the members to donate for court case filed by C.H.Q. and get more retired executives enrolled as Life members of Mumbai Branch. Shri S. R. Yadav presented vote of thanks. He gave special thanks to Shri S.I. Tarnal for making all the arrangements for this meeting which concluded at 16.45 hours.

BI-MONTHLY GB MEETING OF UDAIPUR BRANCH HELD: A Bi Monthly General Body meeting of Udaipur (Rajasthan) Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 12.01.2019 with Shri M P Vyas, President on the Chair. 25 members were present and 2 new members joined the Association. Meeting started with President welcoming all the Members. All the new members introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed by President and Secretary. Then President briefly touched the issues that are concerned to the general members i.e. new IDA of 3.2% w e f 1/ 1/ 2019 and Medical Allowance and asked Secretary to elaborate the same. Secretary Shri Gaffar Mohammed placed all the information received from CHQ in respect to revised IDA with 3.2% increase w e f 1st January, 2019, Medical Allowance, present position of CAT case and other issues. Also discussed rumors spread by some other associations.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, CHENNAI BRANCH HELD: The General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Chennai was held on 9th Jan 2019 at Hotel Saravana Bhavan, Ashok pillar, Chennai-600083. The meeting commenced with prayer by Com.Nirmala Subramanain. Then, the house observed one-minute silence as a mark of respect to the recent Gaja Cyclone victims in Tamilnadu. Com V. Dakshinamoorthy President in his welcome address conveyed his New Year 2019 and Pongal greetings to one and all. In his address, he highlighted the difficulties being faced by the members in getting payment of medical reimbursement and explained about the details of the interaction took place in SAMPANN meeting organized by the CCA TN on 29th Dec, 2018. He also suggested that CHQ may try to get recognition of retired forums like AIBSNLREA, as is being done in the case of serving employees / Executives in BSNL. Com L. Sundararaman, Secretary submitted a brief report about the activities of the branch since last GB on 14-8-2018. His report mainly dealt with the increase of membership (6nos), 3rd PRC, present status of Pay/Pension revision, legal case and CPMS. After few corrections, the report was accepted by the members.

Com V. Chinnappiah, CHQ President in his address appreciated the efforts taken by the Secretary and his team of office bearers in strengthening the branch by increasing the membership and highlighted the efforts taken by CHQ in getting settlement of our medical allowance / reimbursement and said that it is an important issue concerning the pensioners. He said that as on date no retired forum is having recognition and at the same time informed the members about the attention of DOT/BSNL being given to our AIBSNLREA CHQ's letters. Com S. Rathnasubramanian AGS, spoke on the issue of delinking of Pension revision before pay revision based on 3rd PRC and also about pension revision based on 7th CPC recommendations, to BSNL pensioners. He requested members to go through various articles written by him on the pension revision, available in our website. There was lively interaction on the above issue in the GB. Sri C. Pradhan, CCA TN was invited as special invitee and he attended the meeting and addressed the members. He appreciated the office bearers' involvement in taking up the issues of members with him and also offered to do his best to solve issues. He spoke at length about SAMPANN and CPMS and assured that the pensioners will not face any issue because of SAMPANN. He also said that for DOT/BSNL pensioners, it will take some more time to migrate to SAMPANN. There is no proposal to migrate pensioners who get pension now from Post Offices. He was honoured with a shawl by Com.V.Dakshinamoorthy and with a memento by Com.V.Chinnappiah. As was done in earlier GB meetings, 5 senior comrades namely, N.Palanisamy, M,SankaraSubbu, K.Ramarathnam, S.Balaiah and N.Devadoss were honoured with shawls in the GB. As suggested by members present in the meeting, it was decided to raise funds to Gaja Cyclone victims and the amount collected will be sent to TN CM Public Relief fund. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Com D.T. Sambandam followed by lunch.

AIBSNLREA, KOLHAPUR BRANCH HELD ITS QUARTERLY GB MEETING: Quarterly General Body meeting of Kolhapur Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 07.01.2019 with Shri L M Godi, President on the Chair. 75 members were present and 6 new members joined the Association. Meeting started with prayer and President welcomed all the Members. Members first paid tribute to the departed members S/Shri. D R Vedante, from Kolhapur and P L Mantri from Satara who left for

their heavenly abode in last October 2018. The House also mourned the sad demise of Shri B V Patil's wife in November last. Then all the new members introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed by President and Secretary with presentation of flower bouquets. Then President briefly touched the issues that are concerned to the general members i.e. new IDA of 3.2% wef 1 1 2019 and Medical Allowance and asked Secretary to elaborate the same. Branch Secretary Shri D K Joshi first mentioned about 17th December 2018, which was the Pensioners' Day. He gave a brief narration of the historical Judgment in 1982 in commonly known "Nakara Judgment" and mentioned about the involved petitioners and Judges who delivered this Judgment in favor of lakhs of Pensioners of India and the effects of the Judgment in day to day life of the pensioners. He saluted on behalf the House those pensioners and Judges who laid the stone for today's happy retired life of numerous pensioners in India. He gave the status of the 3rd PRC and its implementation by the DOT and the actions of the working as well as retired employees Associations. He thoroughly discussed both the views in circulation on revision of pension i.e. revision of pay scales of working BSNL employees/Executives and thereafter its consequent effect on revision of pension, and the other idea of delinking Pension revision from pay scale revision of BSNL Employees further allowing pension revision as per VII CPC recommendations for CG employees/Pensioners. Members' queries were also replied to their satisfaction. Detail information on "SAMPANN" the ambitious plan on Comprehensive Pension Management System for providing better service to DOT/BSNL Pensioners was also briefed. Members were further informed about the status of payment of Medical Bills and Fixed Allowance. Regarding the status of our PCAT case, it was informed the next date of hearing is fixed to be on 23rd of January 2019. Then Shri S G Kanade, a Sr. Members gave a brief presentation on the effects of excessive use of Smart Mobile Phones by the members of Family. He gave the examples how the Family fabric of "SANVAD" has affected and continue to affect till it breaks for ever, if not controlled and managed by individuals and head of the families. In fact, excessive use of anything is always bad, he said. Then Shri P S Kulkarni Asst. Secretary informed that the day's Lunch, after the meeting, is sponsored by Shri C A Kulkarni on the happy occasion of his son's marriage held in December 2018. All members congratulated and wished the couple. He also said about tour that was being planned in February and asked the members to participate. Shri N C Jain, while giving Vote of thanks to the new members for joining the Association and others for making the meeting a successful one, gave a few simple TIPS for good health in day to day life and requested them to follow the same. The meeting concluded with Lunch at 1400Hrs.

QUARTERLY GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, VADODARA BRANCH HELD: Quarterly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Vadodara (Gujarat) branch was held on 02-01-2019. Eighty-four members attended the meeting which started after observing 2 minutes silence in memory of Late Shri A B Patel, Ex Circle Secretary of Gujarat. Shri I A Patel, Branch President welcomed all the members and the office bearers from CHQ and State Body. Shri R T Shah, Branch Secretary presented a brief report giving status of the important issues. Organizing Secretary (W), CHQ Shri B V Bhavsar, State President P B Parmar and the State Secretary also addressed the house and gave information in detail about Pension revision, Comprehensive Pension Management System,

Payments for medical claims etc. Shri R F Valand, Auditor also addressed the house. Vote of thanks was presented by Shri S Z Tailor. The members disbursed after lunch.

FOURTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF AIBSNLREA WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH HELD: The 4th Biennial conference of AIBSNLREA West Bengal State Branch was held on 24th November 2018 at CTO Auditorium with massive participation of about 350 members. At the beginning a brief cultural program was arranged by our members. As decided earlier, 40 senior members who have completed 75 years of age as on 31st October 2018 were honoured with mementos and flower bouquet. Those unable to be present in the meeting will also be honoured later on. The conference started at 2 PM with comrade S.K.Maitra in the chair. After observing one minute silence in remembrance of departed members & Kerala flood victims, Comrade S.R.Palit State Secretary placed his report before the house. Audited accounts for the year 2017-18 was placed by Comrade Bani Chaudhuri Asst. Finance Secretary. Comrade Debasish Mitra Org. Secretary apprised the house about the organisational activities of the Association. 6 Members participated in the discussion. Thereafter the Secretary replied on the points raised by the speakers and discussed the relevant issues such as Pension Revision, Disbursement of Pension by CCAs and failure of BSNLMRS etc. Referring to the BSNL's declining revenue, he held the policy of the Govt. responsible for the situation and strongly demanded Govt's support for the survival of its own company. Ten new members enrolled their membership. A new committee was elected with Comrade S.C.Roy as President, Comrade K.C.Dey as state secretary and Comrade Debasis Chakraborty as Finance Secretary. The conference ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JANUARY 2019

Yavatmal Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 29/01/2019 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

Raipur Branch (Chhattisgarh State) has deposited Rupees three thousand two hundred (Rs 3200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 27/01/2019 as donation (Rs. 1000/-) on receiving pension arrears collected from 2 members and contribution (Rs. 2000/-) to seek legal remedy for pay/pension arrears collected from 4 members and also Rs 200/- as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

Amravati Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 21/01/2019 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

Udaipur Branch (Rajasthan State) has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 18/01/2019 as CHQ quota for two new Life Members.

Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees one thousand four hundred (Rs 1400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 11/01/2019 as CHQ quota for seven new Life Members.

Varanasi Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 11/01/2019 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs 600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 02/01/2019 as CHQ quota for three new Life Members.

Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees one thousand (Rs 1000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 02/01/2019 as contribution for legal action for pay and pension arrears collected from two members.

Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees eight hundred (Rs 800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 01/01/2019 as CHQ quota for four new Life Members.

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