



Editorial

BSNL REVIVAL – THE BROKEN PROMISES

Exactly one year back, over 80,000 BSNL employees became the sacrificial goat in the name of revival of BSNL and were sent home under BSNL VRS-2019 with a promise for full payment of ex-gratia by second quarter of Financial Year 2020-21. But even after passing of two more quarters, they are still waiting to receive final instalment of their ex-gratia payment. Many of their other dues like GSLI, medical claims are still remaining unpaid. Even service matters like grant of financial upgradations, pay-fixations etc. continue to be pending. Projections that VRS will lead to financial revival of BSNL have failed with no sign of improvement in financial health of BSNL.

Even now, BSNL debts continue to remain a cause for worry. Out of Rs.18000 crores bonds raised through Sovereign guarantee by the Government, BSNL is reported to have cleared Rs.9000 crores dues to some vendors. Still huge sums are payable to the vendors. Contract labourers have also not been paid for more than a year now, though part payment has been made here and there after court directions. There are reports from some circles about the FTTH franchisees not being paid their dues and their threat to disconnect the services. Delayed payment of salary to the serving employees still remains as a regular feature of BSNL. Pending medical bills of the retirees and also of the serving employees are only increasing in numbers and amount.

When the world is moving to 5G technology, BSNL is still struggling to launch LTE based 4G services, since it had to scrap the notice for tender originally rolled out on March 23, 2020 following allegations of restrictive conditions by homegrown companies. BSNL, however, had raised concerns over the DoT's recommendation to use only local equipment for the 4G core network on the ground that the indigenous core technology and equipment are unproven and will increase the overall deployment cost. Anyhow, BSNL has now come out with a detailed notice inviting e-tender, for planning, testing, deployment and annual maintenance of its much-awaited 4G network across four operational zones in addition to Delhi and Mumbai circles for 57,000 sites on a turnkey basis. The fresh notice seeking proposals has opened the doors for homegrown companies to participate and initiate pilot programs even as BSNL plans to go for a full-scale next generation commercial telecom network deployment, benefitting the local gear makers such as Sterlite Technologies, Tejas Networks and Vihaan Networks. These companies need not meet the condition of technical provenness of the equipment. No one knows when this tender will be finalized and when the Indian gear makers will be able to supply, install and commission the equipment. This is the state of 4G assurance in the Cabinet Approval for BSNL revival. [Continued in next page]

BSNL was to monetize its assets so as to raise resources for retiring debt, servicing of bonds, network upgradation, expansion and meeting the operational fund requirements. But the process is very slow and there is dispute between DOT and DIPAM over real estate asset valuation of BSNL and MTNL which is further slowing down the process.

Much talked about merger of BSNL and MTNL, as in the Revival Plan, is said to be being shelved forever as the Group of Ministers has come to the conclusion that it is not feasible. The Union Cabinet has to take a final call on this.

However, BSNL has been granted permission by the Government to

launch its services in the areas served by MTNL in Mumbai and Delhi. As the Report goes, BSNL may launch its landline service in Delhi and Mumbai from March 1, 2021. Meanwhile, BSNL has taken over the mobile network of MTNL as its out-sourced agent to maintain and provide the services. It is also reported that BSNL alone will provide 4 G services and not the MTNL. These latest developments make one to conclude that neither the Administrative Department of BSNL and MTNL i.e. DOT nor the Government has any clue as to how to bring BSNL back on the patch of profitability. The Government has once again stated in the Parliament that it has no plan to close BSNL and MTNL, but the way things are moving, it seems that such assurances will finally prove to be hollow. □



★ ≡ [IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MONTH] ≡ ★

- BSNL, vide its No. 48-2/2020-Pen(B) dated 20.01.2020, issued guidelines regarding recovery of dues to be made from BSNL VRS optees who are still in occupation of BSNL accommodation and also from those who have not submitted "No Dues Certificate", till they submit NDC after vacation of quarters. The recovery is to be made from the following payments which are due to be made: Leave encashment payable to the VRS retiree, remaining 8% ex-gratia payment, pending amount against reimbursement of Outdoor/Indoor medical claims, pending amount against reimbursement of LTC/TA claims and reimbursement of Mobile Handset/Briefcase/Bag/Newspaper etc submitted by the retiree.
- BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/8/2020-ESTAB dated 12.01.2021, informed that sanction of fund for payment of final instalment of Ex-Gratia is being released by DOT and instructed all its Heads of Telecom Circles and other Administrative Units to initiate the process for release of final instalment of Ex-Gratia in ERP/SAP as per the existing guidelines and complete the exercise by 14.01.2021.
- Responding to the request from Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines, the Department of Public Enterprises, vide its No. W-02/0045/2020-DPE(WC) dated 08.01.2021, clarified that as per Para 3 of its earlier O.M. dated 19.11.2020 circulating the guidelines for freezing of IDA w.e.f. 01.10.2020 till 30.06.2021 are

applicable for the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of the CPSEs and not for other employees.

- DOT, vide is No.20-06/2019-PR dated 31.12.2020, consented to the proposal of BSNL and as agreed to by MTNL, to allow BSNL to run the mobile network of MTNL as its outsourced agency w.e.f. 01.01.2021.
- BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 16-05/2019/CBB/RB/Gen. Corr. dated 31.12.2020, asked all IFAs of Telecom Circles/ Territorial Circles and Districts to furnish information regarding pending dues of hospital vendors and retirees after updating the payments already released.



ISSUES TAKEN UP

25.01.2021 RELEASE OF EX-GRATIA PAYMENT TO SHRI B M NYAMATI, RETD CAO, BANGALORE TELECOM DISTRICT AND A VRS-RETIREE - AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH CGMT, KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE: While thanking CGMT, Karnataka Telecom Circle for releasing leave encashment to Shri B M Nyamati, Retd CAO, Bangalore Telecom District and VRS retiree, who was served an incomplete charge-sheet just on the previous day of his retirement for alleged inaction on his part in carrying out his designated duties some 13 years back, AIBSNLREA has now requested to release his Ex-Gratia payment. The Association has contended that even now his DCRG and Ex-gratia payment continue to remain withheld which is unjustified and unwarranted, since Shri B.M.Nyamati, Retd CAO is entitled to receive over Rs. 20 lakhs as DCRG and Rs. 17.7 lakhs as Ex-Gratia – thus the total withheld amount goes above Rs. 37.7 lakhs as against the total recoverable amount of Rs. 13.69 lakhs as per the charges made against him. Therefore, in this case there is no justification to withhold both Ex-Gratia and DCRG, as DCRG amount alone is more than sufficient to recover Rs. 13.69 lakhs if the charges against him are finally proved. In view of the above, at least the Ex-gratia payment to Shri B M Nyamati, Retd CAO, BG TD be immediately released by keeping his DCRG payment alone as withheld till the final outcome of the charge-sheet is known. [View the letter](#)

16.01.2021 LONG PENDING CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL BILLS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES- AIBSNLREA REQUESTS DIRECTOR (FINANCE), BSNL BOARD TO CLEAR ALL THE PENDING CLAIMS: Expressing serious concern that BSNL is yet to reimburse the medical claims of its retired employees pending for the last few years, AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (Finance), BSNL Board. The Association has stated that 'Apart from pending claims mostly pertaining to financial year 2019-20, no payment has been made for the current financial year. There are many cases of indoor claims for Covid-19 and other serious chronic diseases which need to be reimbursed early. In addition, the reimbursement against payment of lifetime subscription to switch over to CGHS facility are also remaining uncleared. As a result, the retired BSNL employees, most of whom are aged and suffering from various diseases, are passing through acute financial crisis and mental agony.' The Association has also requested her to take immediate steps to clear all the

pending medical claims of the retired BSNL employees and reimburse the life-time subscriptions paid by them to CGHS. [View the letter](#)

14.01.2021 AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PGM(PERS), BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE REGARDING NON-ISSUE OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION ORDER AND CONSEQUENT GRANT OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION AND OTHER BENEFITS TO SHRI S V ROJED, RETD SDE (HR NO. 197503181) OF QA CIRCLE: Drawing personal attention of PGM(Pers), BSNL CO to its earlier letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/139 dated 11.01.2020 requesting to issue the final superannuation order to Shri S V Rojed, Retd SDE (HR No. 197503181), QA Circle, who was earlier permitted to retire provisionally from service on 31.03.2012 vide BSNL C.O. F.No 17-10/2012-Pers.II dated 30.03.2012, AIBSNLREA has again requested him to cause issue of his final superannuation Order. The Association has further stated that Quality Assurance & Inspection Circle, vide its letter No. CGM(QA&I)/SG-2904/CPGRMS/2020-2021 dated 11.01.2021, has informed that the AGM (Pers.II-Staff), BSNL C.O., under his letter No. BSNLCO-PRII/22(10)/2020-PERS-II dated 25.08.2020, had requested CGMT, QA & Inspection Circle to provide details regarding 'provisional pension retirement Orders in respect of Shri S V Rojed, Ex-SDE'. The Circle, accordingly, had also forwarded the copy of the same vide its No. CGM(QA & I)/SG-2121/SDE/EPP/2012/Pt dated 08.09.2020 to Principal General Manager (Pers), BSNL Corporate Office. But the Personnel Branch is yet to issue the final superannuation Order in respect of Shri S V Rojed, Retd SDE. As a result, the pensioner is continuously being denied of his final superannuation pension including pensionary benefits like DCRG, Commuted Value of Pension and other service benefits. [View the letter](#)

12.01.2021 AIBSNLREA DRAWS ATTENTION OF DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL ON INACTION BY ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH ON PENDING ACTIVITY HAVING IMPACT ON EX-GRATIA IN RESPECT OF A VRS RETIREE- RAISES THE ISSUE FOR RESTORATION OF THE ORDER CONDONING ADMINISTRATIVE DELAY IN ISSUE OF APPOINTMENT LETTER TO SHRI A K DUBEY, RETD AGM: Following issue of a DO letter to all Heads of Telecom Circles/Districts/Administrative Heads by Director (HR), BSNL vide his D.O. No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/8/2020-ESTAB dated 01.12.2020 regarding completion of pending activities in regard to BSNL VRS-2019 retirees which are having impact on Ex-Gratia payment, AIBSNLREA had earlier brought to his notice a few specific cases of the VRS-retirees needing immediate resolution since those were having impact on Ex-gratia payment. The Association, besides other cases, had also taken up the case for restoration of the Order for condonation of administrative delay in issuing appointment letter after pre-appointment training to Shri Ajay Kumar Dubey, Retd AGM, Agra TD for the purpose of allowing the training period also to be counted as service for pension under Rule-22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 [View posting dated 04.12.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Since the Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office, which itself is to address this pending case, as briefed at Serial No. 01 of the table in the Association's letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/150 dated 04.12.2020, but failed to take action, the Association has again taken up the issue with Director (HR), BSNL for its early redressal. [View the letter](#)

11.01.2021 AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF WRONG REVISED PAY FIXATION OF THE OFFICIATING JTOs OF CTD WHO OPTED FOR FIXATION OF THEIR PAY AND FITMENT IN REVISED 2nd PRC SCALE FROM THE DATE OF THEIR REGULAR PROMOTION AS JTOs: Since Calcutta Telephones has once again issued wrong revised pay-fixation Orders in respect of

the Officiating JTOs who had opted for fixation of their pay and fitment in the revised second PRC scale from the date of their promotion after 01.01.2007 “as per guidelines given by CCA Kolkata” and thus totally brushing aside the clarifications issued by BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020, AIBSNLREA has taken up the matter with BSNL Corporate Office. Pointing out various irregularities noticed in the revised pay-fixation Order, the Association has also mentioned that three increments drawn while officiating in JTO scale have not been taken into account for fixation of pay in JTO scale. The Association has also cited a Sample fixation memo of officiating JTOs regularised in 2008 under FR22(i)(a)(1) and exercised option for the pay revision (2nd PRC) from the date of their promotion as per para 3.6 of File No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010 which has been circulated by Kerala Telecom Circle. Calcutta Telephones has used a different and defective methodology without following the clarifications dated 28.10.2020 issued by BSNL Corporate Office. The Association has finally requested to call for report from CTD BSNL authorities, examine the documents annexed with this representation and to take necessary remedial measures to end the agony of the affected pensioners from Calcutta Telephones. [View the letter](#)



ACTION ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

21.01.2021 PAYMENT OF CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS FOLLOWING REVISION OF THE SENIORITY OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS AS ORDERED BY SUPREME COURT- BSNL REPLIES TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA: Being aggrieved by the attempt by DOT to close the Grievance registered based on the AIC Resolution of AIBSNLREA and forwarded by PMO to Secretary, DOT regarding payment of consequential benefits to its former TES Group B Officers of DOT since absorbed in BSNL and MTNL, following revision of their seniority on the order of Supreme Court in its final judgment delivered on 14.12.2017 in CA No(s) 4389 of 2010, AIBSNLREA had represented to Prime Minister of India on 01.01.2020 [View posting dated 04.01.2020 in this website to read the letter] and urged him to advise Department of Telecommunications to resolve the said grievance at the earliest so that the affected pensioners get their long pending grievance mitigated without further delay. Now BSNL, vide its No. BSNL CO-COMN/12(11)/3/2020-PERS 1 dated 19.01.2021, has informed that seniority in respect of SDE(T) Grade has already been re-fixed and published vide its office letter dated 04.06.2019. BSNL has also informed that “Further, review DPCs against the DPCs conducted in the past for promotion from SDE(T) to DE(T) is under process. It requires collection of ACRs from different part of India in respect of even those officers who have retired more than 10 years ago. This work of collection of essential ACRs/data/records is time consuming. All out efforts are being made to start the process of holding review DPCs”. [View the BSNL](#)

13.01.2021 QUALITY ASSURANCE & INSPECTION CIRCLE REPLIES TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA REGARDING ISSUE OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION ORDER, GRANT OF FINAL PENSION AND OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI S V ROJED, RETD SDE, QA CIRCLE ON COMPLETION OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: AIBSNLREA had taken up with PGM(Pers), BSNL

CO, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/139 dated 11.09.2020 [View posting dated 09.11.2020 in this website to read the letter], the case for issue of final superannuation Order, grant of final pension and other pensionary benefits to Shri S V Rojed, Retd SDE, of erstwhile Quality Assurance Circle who was earlier permitted to retire provisionally on 31.03.2012. He was also acquitted of the Charges, along with all other accused, in a Court case on 25.10.2018 by the Special CBI Court at Dharwar, Karnataka and the BSNL Corporate Office has already issued final retirement orders for some of them. This grievance was also registered in the CPENGRAMS. Now Quality Assurance & Inspection Circle, vide its No. CGM(QA&I)/SG-2904/CPGRAMS/2020-2021 dated 11.01.2021, has intimated that as desired by BSNL C.O., the Circle has forwarded the provisional retirement order issued in respect of Shri S V Rojed, SDE (HR No. 197503181), retired on superannuation on 31.03.2012 so that up-gradation, retirement benefits and pension may be released by the Circle. [View the QA & I Circle letter](#)

11.01.2021 GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FALLING DUE ON THE NEXT DAY OF RETIREMENT TO THE GOVT EMPLOYEES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS: In response to our representation on the above issue, now BSNL has communicated vide its letter No. 32-904/2018-Pen(B) dated 23.12.2020 that Government has not made any changes in rules governing grant of increment to retired employees notionally. BSNL has further stated that the case has been implemented by CBIC, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance *in personam* and not *in rem*. In this regard, our last posting dated 21.12.2020 in this website on the same issue wherein a similar reply from Department of Personnel & Training was posted be viewed. [View the BSNL letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS AND LETTERS

21.01.2021 RECOVERY OF DUES OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT DUES FROM THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF BSNL VRS-2019 SCHEME RETIRED EMPLOYEES WHO ARE STILL IN OCCUPATION OF BSNL ACCOMMODATION: BSNL has issued instructions regarding the manner in which recovery of dues are to be made from BSNL VRS optees who are still in occupation of BSNL accommodation and also from those who have not submitted "No Dues Certificate", till they submit NDC after vacation of quarters. The recovery will be first made from Leave encashment payable to the VRS retiree, then the remaining 8% ex-gratia will be withheld, then recovery will be made from the amount of reimbursement of Outdoor/Indoor medical claims, then from amount of reimbursement of LTC/TA claims and then from amount of reimbursement of Mobile Handset/Briefcase/Bag/Newspaper etc submitted by the retiree. [View the BSNL order](#)

13.01.2021 PAYMENT OF FOURTH AND FINAL INSTALMENT OF EX-GRATIA TO THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES- BSNL INSTRUCTS ALL ITS HEADS OF TELECOM CIRCLES/ ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS TO INITIATE PROCESS FOR PAYMENT: BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/8/2020-ESTAB dated 12.01.2021, has informed that sanction of fund for payment of final instalment of Ex-Gratia is being released by DOT shortly and instructed all its Heads of Telecom Circles and other Administrative Units to initiate the process for release of final instalment of Ex-Gratia in ERP/SAP as per the existing guidelines and complete the exercise by 14.01.2021. [View the BSNL Order](#)

10.01.2021 DPE ISSUES CLARIFICATION ON ITS ORDERS FREEZING THE IDA OF THE CPSE EMPLOYEES- REITERATES THE DECISION AS AT PARA 3 OF ITS O.M. DATED 19.11.2020: In response to the request from Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Mines, the Department of Public Enterprises has since clarified vide its No. W-02/0045/2020-DPE(WC) dated 08.01.2021 that as per Para 3 of its earlier O.M. dated 19.11.2020 circulating the guidelines for freezing of IDA w.e.f. 01.10.2020 till 30.06.2021 [View posting dated 19.11.2020 in this website to read the O.M.] are applicable for the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of the CPSEs and not for other employees. Thus, this clarification does not bring any change in the guidelines issued earlier vide O.M. dated 19.11.2020. [View the DPE O.M.](#)

01.01.2021: RUNNING OF MOBILE NETWORK OF MTNL BY BSNL AS ITS OUTSOURCED AGENCY: As per DoT letter No.20-06/2019-PR dated 31.12.2020, as proposed by BSNL and agreed by MTNL, BSNL will run the mobile network of MTNL as its outsourced agency from 01.01.2021. [View the DoT letter](#)

01.01.2021 BREAK UP OF PENDING LIABILITY OF HOSPITAL VENDORS AND RETIREES- BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE SEEKS INFORMATION FROM CIRCLES: BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 16-05/2019/CBB/RB/Gen. Corr. dated 31.12.2020, has asked all IFAs of Telecom Circles/ Territorial Circles and Districts to furnish information regarding pending dues of hospital vendors and retirees after updating the payments already released. The information has to be sent in prescribed per-forma by 6th January, 2021. [View the BSNL letter](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JANUARY 2021

West Bengal State Branch has deposited Rupees three thousand fifty (Rs. 3050/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with syndicate Bank on 27.01.2021 as CHQ quota for 17 new Life Members. This is in addition to advance payment of quota made on 15.01.2021.

West Bengal State Branch, through Shri Keshab Chanda De, Retd AO, from Purva Bardhaman, West Bengal, has deposited Rupees five hundred fifty (Rs. 550/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with syndicate Bank on 15.01.2021 as CHQ quota (Rs. 200/-) for one new Life Member and advance payment against CHQ quota (Rs. 350/-) for future adjustment.

Shri Sibnath Manna, Retd DE and Life Member, West Bengal State Branch has deposited Rupees two thousand (Rs. 2000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with syndicate Bank on 05.01.2021 as donation.

Agra Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with syndicate Bank on 04.01.2021 as CHQ quota for two 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 03.01.2021 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

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