



Editorial

BSNLMRS – A CASTLE IN THE AIR TO THE BSNL RETIREES

BSNL Medical Reimbursement Scheme, which was initially offered to the BSNL employees with reasonable provisions for adequate Medicare facilities, has now turned out to be the most useless scheme to the BSNL retirees. No empanelled hospital now allows cashless treatment and the expenditure incurred for indoor treatment by the retirees themselves is also not being reimbursed by BSNL for years. Similarly, the claims for reimbursement of Medical bills for outdoor treatment submitted by the retirees are gathering dust in BSNL Offices with no sign of their being reimbursed in near future. The most funny but deplorable part of the issue was that BSNL, without making any payment towards reimbursement of outdoor claims, routinely claimed in Form 26AS as if some amount has been credited to the concerned retirees and even deducted TDS against such false claims for payment. This created another problem to the retirees who were being forced to include these unpaid amounts as income in their individual Income Tax Returns and even pay additional tax as income tax to IT Department. Moreover, the annual ceiling limit for outdoor claims for the retirees has been so drastically reduced and the past

retirees who retired in pre-revised scales of earlier PRCs, have now become the worst affected. It is practically denial of reimbursement of Medical claims for outdoor treatment to them. No doubt, option is available to the retirees to switch over to CGHS. But it does not cover all the places and as such most of the retirees will have no benefit in switching over to CGHS. Over and above, the huge amount that one has to pay from one's own resources as onetime subscription to CGHS to avail the benefit are also not getting reimbursed for months together. Even AIBSNLREA's requests to allow the one-time subscription in pre-revised rates for BSNL IDA pensioners in view of no pension revision for the last 13 years, have also not been acceded to. Thus, Medicare of BSNL retirees is now in a very bad shape.

Against all the above odds, AIBSNLREA has been continuously pursuing with all authorities for a positive solution. But there is no denial that under the given financial position of BSNL, which is deteriorating day by day even after forcing out over 80,000 employees under BSNL VRS-2019 a year back, there is hardly any hope for BSNLMRS to come out of the present mess. BSNL Corporate Office's

desperate call to the field units, in a letter issued on 22.02.2021, urging them to plead with State Electricity Boards not to disconnect BSNL's electricity connections for non-payment of bills and Director (HR)'s virtual SOS to the CGMs in his letters dated 02.02.2021 and 24.02.2021 to get at least one agreement for leasing out office space in each District to mobilize funds are just examples of the utter helplessness and despair on the part of BSNL Management.

Even against the above gloomy backdrop, our sustained pleadings and efforts caused BSNL to collect information twice in December 2020 about the pending liability of hospital vendors and also the pending Medical bill liability of the Retirees. Finally, on 02.12.2020, BSNL even released Rs. 25.76 crores to clear pending Hospital vendors liability up to 31.03.2019 and Rs. 41.99 crores for pending Medical bill liability of Retirees up to 31.03.2019. On the other hand, the pending liability for Hospital vendors and pending Medical bill liability of Retirees against the financial 2019-20 alone are Rs. 40.80 crores and

Rs. 113.74 crores respectively. Though in the recent times, BSNL has given assurance more than once that BSNL is committed to clear the pending liability to the retirees, no one can say for sure when the Medical claims pending since 2019-20 would actually be reimbursed. Also, BSNL Management, seems to be in no mood to listen to the repeated genuine plea to review its decision drastically reducing the annual ceiling limit of the retirees- specially the past retirees in pre-revised pay scales of earlier PRCs. However, in a welcome change, BSNL has now come out with an order discontinuing with the practice of deducting TDS at the time of posting of Medical bills in SAP from January, 2021 onwards. This will save the retirees from being subjected to undue harassment at the time of submission of their annual Income Tax Returns. But given the present state of affairs in regard to BSNLMRS, it can be said without any hesitation that the beneficiaries of BSNLMRS- specially the retirees are facing uncertain future in regard to their Medicare requirements.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MONTH

- 🕒 DOT, vide its Office Order No. 7-47/2016/PFP-Policy/Pt-1/3402 to 3433 dated 25.02.2021, revised the existing procedure for revision of conversion to Family Pension when eligible claimant is other than the family pensioner mentioned in the PPO and also Commutation Revision in respect of all SAMPANN pensioners including the BSNL VRS-2019 pensioners. Now onwards, the requisite forms with specified documents will have to be submitted, instead of the Head of Office as at present, directly to the CCA Office which shall be performing the role of the Head Office for the purpose of these two revisions.
- 🕒 DOP&PW, vide its OM No. 12(19)/2020-P&PW(H)-6569 dated 18.02.2021, issued a detailed procedure for processing of the case for sanction of pension in respect of

deceased retired Government servant and for sanction of family pension to his/her family. In such cases, the spouse of the deceased retired Government servant or, in the absence of the spouse, a member of his/her family eligible for family pension may submit claim in prescribed form to the Head of Office which, in turn, shall process the claims in prescribed form and send the same along with a forwarding letter to the PAO for authorization of pension and family pension in respect of deceased retired Govt servant. The PAO shall authorize pension (in respect of deceased Govt servant) and family pension to the spouse/eligible family member.

- ④ DOP&PW, vide its OM No. 1/1(2)/2020-P&PW(E) Part-1 dated 12.02.2021, issued orders revising the upper and lower limits of two family pensions payable to a child in respect of both the parents after the 7th CPC. While higher limit revised at Rs. 45,000 per month, the lower limit fixed at Rs. 27,000 per month.
- ④ Dept of Health & Family Welfare, vide its F.No. S.11011/3/2021-EHS dated 10.02.2021, issued detailed instructions for downloading Index Card and take print out of validity of CGHS Plastic Cards for serving employees/pensioners (except whole life card).
- ④ DOP&T, vide its OM F. No. 19/2/2018-Estt(Pay-I) dated 03.02.2021, reiterated its earlier stand that implementation of judgement dated 15.09.2017 of Hon'ble High Court of Madras in the case of P. Ayyamperumal Vs Union of India & Ors, is 'in personam' in nature. Referring to the Supreme Court Judgement dated 29.03.2019 while dismissing SLP filed by Dept of Telecommunications against the judgement dated 03.05.2017 of Hon'ble High Court, Lucknow Bench, 'keeping all the questions of law open', DOP&T further said that since the question of law is open and not yet decided, decision for implementing the judgement of Madras High Court 'in rem' has not been taken.
- ④ BSNL, vide its No. BSNLCO-TAXN/13(15)/1/2020-Taxation/4045 dated 03.02.2021, issued orders conveying its decision to deduct TDS on Retiree Medical Bills at the time of payment with effect from January 2021 (i.e. Q4 of F.Y. 2020-21) onwards instead of at the time of posting of medical bills in the SAP which was the practice till now.
- ④ Union Budget for the financial year 2021-222 placed in the Parliament proposed no change in the existing income tax slab/rates/exemptions etc for the individual income tax payers. Senior Citizens, above 75 years in age, having income from only pension and interest from same bank/post office, will not be required to submit their Income Tax Returns.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

25.02.2021 NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF CONCESSIONAL TELEPHONE BILLS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES RESIDING IN THE AREAS SERVED BY MTNL IN DELHI AND MUMBAI-

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH DIRECTOR (FINANCE), BSNL: AIBSNLREA has taken up the above issue with Director (Finance), BSNL, since the claims for reimbursement of telephones bills of the retired BSNL employees residing in the areas served by MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai are not being reimbursed for last two years or even more. The Association has stated in its letter that the retired employees residing in the areas served by MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai are being charged even for free calls, as allowed by BSNL as concession, and these employees are to pay these bills in full which are subsequently reimbursed by BSNL. The Association has also expressed the apprehension that that many of these bills may not even be found traceable in the coming future, if the reimbursement remains pending for such a long time. The Association has further requested for immediate reimbursement of all pending telephone bills. [View the letter](#)

24.02.2021 AIBSNLREA REQUESTS MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE TO RESCIND/MODIFY UNFAIR PROVISION UNDER SECTION 15(a) OF IT ACT, 1961 TO TREAT SALARY DUE BUT NOT PAID AS TAXABLE: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Minister of State for Finance, Govt of India drawing his attention to the unfair provision under Section 15 (a) of Income Tax Act, 1961 to treat salary due but not paid as taxable. The Association has pointed out that “though income tax for an assessment year is to be calculated based on the total income earned in a financial year, at present income tax is also being charged against the amount due against medical claims, which forms part of salary under Section 17(2) of IT Act, 1961, but not paid in the said financial year. TDS is also being deducted against such unpaid amount and the hapless tax-payers are forced to include these unpaid amounts in their annual income and also pay additional tax”. The Association has further requested to rescind/modify the existing provisions under Section 15 (a) of IT Act, 1961 or issue suitable clarification so that TDS or Income Tax is charged only when the amount due, forming part of salary, is actually paid to the employees/pensioners. [View the letter](#)

20.02.2020 RESTORATION OF PAY FIXATION AS ALLOWED EARLIER TO THE ERSTWHILE TTAs OFFICIATING AS JTOs OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONES WHO EXERCISED OPTION FOR THEIR PAY FIXATION IN THE REVISED SCALE ON THE DATE OF THEIR PROMOTION AFTER 01.01.2007 - AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES: In response to AIBSNLREA’s letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/126 dated 20.10.2020 [View posting dated 20.10.2020 in this website to read the letter], which was registered under Grievance Docket No. DOPPW/E/2020/24019 on the above subject, AGM Admin South BA, Kolkata of CTD had earlier furnished the revised fixation memo dated 11.11.2020 in respect of an affected retired executive stating that BSNL Corporate Office letter No. 3-32/2013/Estt-IV dated 22.12.2015 and No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020 were followed for the said fixation. But several defects in this pay fixation were found and these were duly taken up by the Association with Sr GM(Estt), BSNL Corporate Office vide letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2021/01 dated 11.01.2021. Now that the Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office, vide its letter No. 5-21/2021/Estt-IV/CPGRAMS/24019 dated 16.02.2021 addressed to CGMT, Calcutta Telephones, has categorically stated that the fixation does not seem to be correct, the Association has again taken up the issue with CGM, Calcutta Telephones. The said letter from Establishment Branch also makes it clear that “In case of exercise of option for fixation of pay from the date of promotion/upgradation, the employee will continue to draw pay in the revised pay till the date of his promotion/upgradation. On the date of promotion, the pay in the promoted post will be

fixed under FR 22(1)(a)(i) and thereafter the pay in the promoted post may be revised in terms of fitment formula as per para 2 of this office order No.1-50/2008-PAT(BSNL) dated 05.03.2009". The Association has also mentioned that earlier CTD, vide its letter No. MAS/SI.South/Executive/20-21 dated 01.02.2021 addressed to the Association, had stated that "For allowing (fixation) in the same manner as allowed to JAO (Deptl), to all Non-Executives including the TTAs as per clarification issued vide No. BSNLCO-PRII/11(24)/14/2020-PERS1 dated 28.08.2020, clarification is needed from Corporate Office, New Delhi." The Association has now pointed out that since the method of pay fixation to be followed in this case, as elaborated by Establishment in its letter No. 5-21/2021/Estt-IV/CPGRAMS/24019 dated 16.02.2021 addressed to CGMT, CTD, is just the same as allowed to the JAO(Deptl), the Finance wing of CTD cannot have any more excuses for following the correct procedure as per FR and other standing instructions on fitment in revised pay scale from the date of promotion after 1.1.2007 to JTO grade. The Association has, finally, again requested to restore the pay fixations which were initially allowed to these officiating JTOs who opted for pay fixation in the revised pay scale from the date of their promotion. [View the letter](#)

17.02.2021 RESTORATION OF THE ORDER TO CONDONE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DELAY IN ISSUING APPOINTMENT LETTER AFTER COMPLETION OF PRE-APPOINTMENT TRAINING TO SHRI AJAY KUMAR DUBEY, RETD AGM, AGRA TD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING TRAINING PERIOD TO BE COUNTED AS SERVICE UNDER RULE-22 OF CCS (PENSION) RULES, 1972:

AIBSNLREA had last taken up the above issue with Director (HR), vide its letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/02 dated 12.01.2021 [view posting dated 12.01.2021 in this website to read the letter] and this grievance was also registered in CPENGRAMS under Grievance e Docket No. DOPPW/E/2021/01344. Now it is observed from the Status Report of the above referred Grievance Docket that the Grievance has been forwarded to UP (West) Circle Office with the following remarks: "The grievance of the complainant is forwarded for redressal under intimation to the complainant as Circle is competent to take decision in the matter". Now that it has been agreed that the Circle is competent to take decision in the matter, the Association has addressed a letter to CGMT, UP(West) Telecom Circle, BSNL requesting him to restore his Circle Office Order issued earlier vide No. UP(W)/BSNL/HR-I/6-013/Staff-2017/V/27 dated 08.01.2020 condoning the administrative delay in issuing appointment letter to Shri A K Dubey, Retd AGM or issue a fresh Order so that the pensioner can get the benefit of pension under Rule 22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 for which he is fully eligible. [View the letter](#)

17.02.2021 SHIFTING OF OFFICIAL AND CONCESSIONAL TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS OF BSNL AND ITS RETIRED EMPLOYEES RESPECTIVELY FROM MTNL TO PROPOSED BSNL NETWORK IN DELHI AND MUMBAI:

Since BSNL is said to start its own landline services in Delhi and Mumbai service areas, AIBSNLREA has requested CMD, BSNL to shift all official and concessional telephone connections of BSNL and its retired employees respectively from MTNL to proposed BSNL network in Delhi and Mumbai. The Association has stated that this will not only help BSNL to avoid incurring expenditure in reimbursing the telephone bills of the retirees but also help the retirees by not having to pay the bills themselves to MTNL and then wait, without result, to get the reimbursement. Otherwise also, once BSNL starts

operation of its own network, there is no justification to use the telecom services from other network incurring huge expenditure. [View the letter](#)

12.02.2021 NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF ONETIME SUBSCRIPTION PAID BY THE BSNL RETIREES TO THE CGHS FOR SWITCHING OVER FROM BSNLMRS TO CGHS- AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (FINANCE), BSNL: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (Finance), BSNL Board drawing her attention to the above issue wherein the BSNL retirees, who switched over from BSNLMRS to CGHS by paying huge amount as one-time subscription, are not being reimbursed their claims for last many months. This is causing serious problems to them, since the subscriptions paid in most of the cases are more than double of the amount that they receive as monthly pension. With no revision of pension for last 14 years and even payment of IDA at revised rates being stopped, these retirees are now facing acute financial problems. The Association has requested to order immediate reimbursement of all pending claims for reimbursement of one-time subscriptions paid to CGHS by the BSNL retirees. [View the letter](#)

10.02.2021 AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE TO STOP HARASSMENT OF BSNL IDA PENSIONERS BY CPC BANGALORE DISALLOWING FULL EXEMPTION AS ALLOWED UNDER SECTION 10(10AA)(i) FOR LEAVE ENCASHMENT FOR THE PERIOD SERVED IN DOT AND ISSUING CHALLANS TO DEPOSIT ADDITIONAL TAX: As several BSNL IDA pensioners, who filed their ITR for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20, have received notice from CPC Bangalore disallowing full exemption as provided under Section 10(10AA)(i) for encashment of leave earned during their service in DOT period and demanding payment of additional tax even after their submission of written reply, AIBSNLREA has since taken up the issue with Shri Anurag Thakur, Minister of State for Finance. The Association has quoted the BSNL Office letter No. 1001-04/2011-12/Taxation/BSNL/LE/196 dated 04.05.2012 wherein it has been clearly clarified at point no. 1 of the said letter that the absorbed employees will be eligible for full exemption of the amount due as leave encashment for the Government service period. The Association has further pointed out that the INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL "SMC" BENCH, MUMBAI in ITA No. 3261/Mum/2018 had ordered in respect of absorbed employees of MTNL allowing tax exemption for leave encashment for the leave earned during the period served in the Government. AIBSNLREA has finally requested Minister of State for Finance to kindly direct CPC Bangalore to withdraw the notices and stop harassing the BSNL pensioners by issuing challans to deposit additional tax. [View the letter](#)

10.02.2021 NON-GRANT OF TWO CONSECUTIVE TIME-BOUND FINANCIAL UPGRADATIONS UNDER EPP TO SHRI SHRIKANT B MOHARE, RETD AO, GULBARGA TELECOM DISTRICT: Since Karnataka Telecom Circle is yet to issue orders granting two consecutive time-bound financial upgradations under EPP to Shri Shrikant B Mohare, Retd Accounts Officer, Gulbarga Telecom District, AIBSNLREA has taken up the matter with CGMT, Karnataka Telecom Circle. In its letter the Association has thanked CGMT for issuing orders granting financial upgradations in respect of two of the three long pending cases of retired executives on their acquittal from the same court case that the Association had been pursuing from time to time, but regretted that the much-awaited orders for Shri Shrikant

B. Mohare, Retd AO, who has to receive two consecutive financial upgradations, are yet to be issued. The Association has also sought for the intervention of CGMT, Karnataka so that immediate Orders are issued granting two consecutive financial upgradations under EPP to Shri Shrikant B. Mohare, Retd AO. [View the letter](#)

09.02.2021 NON-SETTLEMENT OF PAYMENT OF BALANCE AMOUNT OF GPF CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD 03.12.1980 TO 30.09.1990 TO SHRI V VELAPPAN, RETD DGM, TAMILNADU CIRCLE:

Being totally unsatisfied with the response from Tamilnadu Telecom Circle of BSNL to the representation of AIBSNLREA on the above issue vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/141 dated 11.11.2020 [View posting dated 11.11.2020 in this website to read the letter], duly registered under CPENGRAMS Grievance Docket No. DOPPW/E/2020/26181, the Association has again addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW. Countering the arguments advanced by Tamilnadu Telecom Circle in its letter No. TAC/GPF/Genl.Corr/2014-17/28 dated 27.01.2021 to defend its unjustified stand to deny refund of GPF contributions for the period 03.12.1980 to 30.09.1990, the Association has stated that the pensioner cannot be held responsible for the fire accident and failure of Tamilnadu Circle to protect its records/documents. Moreover, Tamilnadu Circle might have failed to protect its records/documents, but the affected pensioner in this case has not. All the official documents/records related to deduction of GPF contributions for the said period, which were made available to him from time to time, were duly submitted by the pensioner to the Circle as well as by this Association as attachment to its representation No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/141 dated 11.11.2020. The Association has further stated that no Balance Sheet for the years 1986-87, 1987-88 was ever issued by DMT Coimbatore to Shri V Velappan, Retd DGM. Similarly, no Balance Sheet was issued even for the years 1989-90 and 1990-1991 (up to September, 1990) when MTNL Mumbai deducted the GPF contribution and transferred the same to DMT, Coimbatore. Thus, having issued no GPF balance Sheets (Annual Statements) for the above said periods, BSNL, Tamilnadu Circle cannot take shelter under Rule-39(2) of GPF(CS) Rules, 1960 to deny the pensioner to get legitimate refund of his GPF contributions. The Association has further urged Secretary (Pension) to advise Tamilnadu Circle, BSNL to construct the case for refund based on the copies of official records/documents supplied as attachment to the representations and refund the GPF contribution for the period 03.12.1980 to 30.09.1990 along with interests accrued there on to Shri V Velappan, Retd DGM (PPO No. 602015121235604, GPF A/C No. TCED 30022) without any further delay. [View the letter](#)

08.02.2021 AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CGMT, KARNATAKA CIRCLE REGARDING NON-SETTLEMENT OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION, PAYMENT OF DCRG ETC. TO SHRI G.P. BIRADAR, RETD DE, BANGALORE TD DESPITE THE ASSUSANCE GIVEN:

In response to an earlier representation of AIBSNLREA, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/67 dated 05.08.2020 on the above issues, which was registered under Grievance Docket No. DOPPW/E/2020/15400 in CPENGRAMS, Karnataka Telecom Circle had disposed of the Grievance Docket stating that "On receipt of VC, all eligible payments will be made" [View

posting dated 25.12.2020 in this website to read the reply by Karnataka Circle]. Since the issues taken up are still not resolved, AIBSNLREA has now drawn the attention of CGMT, Karnataka Telecom Circle to the issue and requested to expeditiously settle his long-pending cases. [View the letter](#)

02.02.2021 AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF HARASSMENT OF SHRI M MATHURAMANI, RETD SR AO, CHENNAI TELEPHONES BY PR CCA TAMILNADU IN NOT SETTling HIS LONG-AWAITED FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION AND ALSO STOPPING HIS PROVISIONAL PENSION: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) on the above issue and requested him to direct Principal CCA, Tamilnadu to immediately release the provisional pension for the last two months to Shri M Mathuramani, Retd Sr AO and also issue the PPO for his final superannuation pension and make payment of his DCRG, CVP etc. without any further delay. [View the letter](#)

RESPONSE/ACTION ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

24.02.2021 BSNL'S RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONAL FTTH CONNECTION IN LIEU OF EXISTING CONCESSIONAL BROAD BAND CONNECTION TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES: As BSNL Corporate Office constituted a three-member Committee with Sr. GM(PDC), FIN-CFA 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, AIBSNLREA made a request to Director (HR), BSNL to consider simultaneous extension of concessional FTTH facility to the retired BSNL employees at their residence in lieu of concessional broadband connection [View posting dated 30.12.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now BSNL has replied, vide its No. BSNLCO-ADMN/18-5/2020-ADMN dated 08.02.2021 stating that "your suggestion to extend the facility to the retired employee is welcome and the same may be considered at appropriate time in future taking in to account its viability and market dynamics etc. [View the BSNL letter](#)

19.02.2021 WRONG PAY-FIXATION CASES OF THE OFFICIATING JTOs OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONES WHO OPTED FOR THEIR PAY-FIXATION IN THE REVISED PAY SCALE FROM THE DATE OF THEIR PROMOTION- BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE ADDRESSES CGMT, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES REQUESTING TO PROVIDE DETAILS AS TO HOW THE FIXATION IN THESE CASES HAVE BEEN DONE: Being unsatisfied with the reply dated 07.05.2020 received from Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office regarding wrong pay-fixation cases, AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to Sr General Manager (Estt), BSNL, vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/126 dated 20.10.2020 which was registered in CPENGRAMS as Docket No. DOPPW/E/2020/24019 [View posting dated 20.10.2020 in this website to read the letter]. In this letter, the Association pointed out the irregularities in the revised pay fixations done by Calcutta Telephones in respect of the Officiating JTOs who opted for pay-fixation in revised IDA pay scale from the date of their promotion and requested to take corrective actions. Now, Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 5-21/2021/Estt-IV/CPGRAMS/24019 dated 16.02.2021, has addressed a letter to CGMT, Calcutta Telephones after examining a report on the issue received from CTD. It has been

stated in the said letter that “... In this connection, it is observed that method of pay fixation does not seems correct. In case of exercise of option for fixation of pay from the date of promotion/upgradation, the employees will continue to draw pay in the pre-revised pay till the date of his promotion/upgradation. On the date of promotion, the pay in the promoted post will be fixed under FR22(1)(a)(i) and thereafter the pay in the promoted post may be revised in terms of fitment formula as per para 2 of this office order no. 1-50/2008-PAT(BSNL) dated 05.03.2009”. BSNL Corporate Office has also requested Calcutta Telephones to provide details as to how the pay fixations were done to enable it to examine the case further. [View the BSNLCO letter](#)

17.02.2021 PR. CCA, TAMILNADU COVEYS SETTLEMENT OF THE CASES FOR ISSUE OF PPO, PAYMENT OF PENSION AND DCRG TO SHRI M MATHURAMANI, RETD SR AO, CHENNAI TELEPHONES AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom), vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2021/06 dated 02.02.2021 which was duly registered in CPENGRAMS with Grievance Docket No. DOPPW/E/2021/03681, requesting him to direct Principal CCA, Tamilnadu to immediately release the provisional pension for the last two months to Shri M Mathuramani, Retd Sr AO and also issue the PPO for his final superannuation pension and make payment of his DCRG, CVP etc. without any further delay [View posting dated 02.02.2021 in this website to read the letter]. Now the CCA, Tamilnadu, while disposing off the said Grievance Docket, has stated that “The pension case been processed and retirement gratuity paid to the pensioner on 03.02.2021 and PPO forwarded to CPPC, SBI for effecting the monthly payment of pension at SBI Kilpauk Branch. A copy of the forwarding memo also endorsed the pensioner..” [View response from Pr CCA TN](#)

13.02.2021 BSNL SHIRKS ITS REPONSIBILITY ON THE FUSS CREATED BY IT REGARDING ITS FALSE CLAIM IN FORM 26AS AS TO HAVE MADE PAYMENTS TO THE RETIREES AGAINST THEIR MEDICAL CLAIMS: AIBSNLREA had been continuously raising the issue of serious problems being faced by the BSNL retirees, while filing their Income Tax Returns, due to false claims made by BSNL in Form 26 AS of IT Department as to have made some payments against medical claims without actually doing so. In this respect, the Association had last represented to Prime Minister of India vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/124 dated 19.10.2020 with Grievance Docket No. PMOPG/E/2020/0924904 and which was posted in this website on 19.10.2020 and No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/151 dated 08.12.2020 with Grievance Docket No. PMOPG/E/2020/1023975 which was also posted in this website on 08.12.2020. While in the first representation, the Association drew the attention of the Prime Minister on non-redressal of grievances in the matter of discriminatory treatment meted out to the BSNL retirees in respect of reimbursement of their medical claims, false claims made by BSNL in Form-26AS, drastic cuts in Annual Ceiling Limit etc., in the second representation the Association pointed out to the evasive action of CBDT to clarify/advise on treating the false claim made by BSNL in Form 26 for the assessment year 2021-21 as having credited some amount while filing ITR. Now both these representations have been disposed off by BSNL by sending identical replies. BSNL has stated that “Medical claims form part of salary as per Sec 17(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and Salary is chargeable to tax either on ‘due basis’ or ‘receipt basis’ whichever is earlier as per Section 15 of the Income Tax Act, 1961”. BSNL has further stated that “.... In the instant case, TDS was deducted and reflected in 26AS however bill continued to remain unpaid due to financial crunch faced by BSNL. There is no false claim by BSNL as once TDS is deducted it is automatically reflected

in 26AS. However, BSNL is committed to clear the liability of the retirees at the earliest”.
[View the BSNL’s replies](#)

12.02.2021 BSNL RESPONDS TO SOME REPRESENTATIONS FROM AIBSNLREA ON REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS UNDER BSNLMRS ADDRESSED TO VARIOUS AUTHORITIES AND SENDS IDENTICAL REPLIES: AIBSNLREA had made been making representations to all concerned authorities from time to time on issues related reimbursement of medical claims under BSNLMRS. Now BSNL Corporate Office has sent identical replies in response to four of such representations (i) vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/124 dated 19.10.2020 addressed to Prime Minister of India [view posting dated 19.10.2020 in this website to read the letter], (ii) vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/128 dated 22.10.2020 addressed to Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW [view posting dated 22.10.2020 in this website to read the letter], (iii) vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/135 dated 02.11.2020 addressed to Prime Minister of India [view posting dated 02.11.2020 in this website to read the letter] and (iv) No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2021/04 dated 15.01.2021 addressed to Director (Finance), BSNL [view posting dated 16.01.2021 in this website to read the letter]. All these representations were duly registered in pgportal. Now BSNL has stated in its replies that “...The payments of medical bills have not been made since April, 2019 due to severe fund constraints. Efforts are being made for releasing funds and payments will be made as soon as possible”. BSNL has further stated that “... BSNL has discontinued the practice of deducting TDS at the time of posting of medical bill in the SAP and will deduct TDS of Retirees medical bills at the time of payment with effect from January 2021 onwards vide letter No. BSNLCO-TAXN/13(15)1/2020-Taxation/4045 dated 03.02.2021”. [View the BSNL replies](#)

11.02.2021 CASES OF WRONG REVISED PAY FIXATION OF THE OFFICIATING JTOs OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONES WHO OPTED FOR FIXATION OF THEIR PAY AND FITMENT IN REVISED 2nd PRC SCALE FROM THE DATE OF THEIR REGULAR PROMOTION AS JTOs- CALCUTTA TELEPHONES RESPONDS TO OUR LETTER TO SR GM (ESTT), BSNL CO: Since Calcutta Telephones 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 had taken up the matter with BSNL Corporate Office. Pointing out various irregularities noticed in the revised pay-fixation Order, the Association 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 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 was circulated by Kerala Telecom Circle and stated that Calcutta Telephones has used a different and defective methodology. The Association also requested to call for report from CTD BSNL authorities, examine the documents and take necessary remedial measures to end the agony of the affected pensioners [View posting dated 11.01.2021 in this website to read the letter]. Now Calcutta Telephones, vide its No. SDE/HR-III/HQ/CPGRAMS/2020-21/74 dated 09.02.2021, has responded to the letter of the Association and quoting various orders explained how pay-fixations have been done. But the reply does not have any

mention of the specific points raised by AIBSNLREA in its letter dated 11.01.2021 addressed to Sr. GM (Estt), BSNL. [View the CTD letter](#)

11.02.2021 CALCUTTA TELEPHONES REPLIES TO THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA ADDRESSED TO SR GM (ESTT), BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE REGARDING WRONG PAY-FIXATION CASES OF THE TTAs SINCE PROMOTED AS JTOs IN 2008 WHO OPTED FOR FIXATION OF THEIR PAY IN THE REVISED IDA PAY SCALES FROM THE DATE OF THEIR NEXT PROMOTION: Being unsatisfied with the reply received from DGM (Estt), BSNL C.O., vide No.s CPGRAMS_Pay Fixations dated 07.05.2020, on the Grievances lodged in CPENGRAMS in respect of the above stated issue, stating that "... Circle Office has informed that the pay fixation has been processed as per BSNL existing guideline", AIBSNLREA vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/126 dated 20.10.2020 contested the claim with facts and records [View posting dated 20.10.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Calcutta Telephones has replied by e-mail sent on 05.02.2021 as follows: "R/Sir, Refer to the reply dated 05-02-201 with enclosure (attached herewith). Kindly refer to the the BSNL CO order no. BSNLCO-A/16(21)/5/2021-ESTAB Dated 03-02-2021 regarding "Recovery due to erroneous pay revision of officiating JTOs whose pay revision were made in JTO as substantive cadre instead of TTA at the time of implementation of 2nd PRC w.e.f. 01-01-2007. The official Sh. Apurba Kr Jana was reverted to his parent substantive cadre TTA and pay fixation has been done accordingly. Refer to reply attached. The official has been intimated through email also. The case is disposed off from this unit. Regards". Earlier also, CTD had sent another reply on the same issue vide its letter No. MAS/St. South/Executive/20-21 dated 01.02.2021 which was duly posted in this website on 03.02.2021. [View the attachment](#)

05.02.2021 BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA'S LETTER TO CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES REQUESTING RESTORATION OF PAY-FIXATION EARLIER ALLOWED TO THE ERSTWHILE TTAs OFFICIATING AS JTOs AND SINCE RETIRED AS EXECUTIVES WHO EXERCISED OPTION FOR THEIR PAY-FIXATION UNDER PARA 3.6 OF BSNL ORDER NO. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) DATED 07.05.2020: Following issue of clarification by BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.08.2020, AIBSNLREA, vide its letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/138 dated 07.11.2020, had requested Chief General Manager, Calcutta Telephones for early restoration of pay-fixation that was earlier correctly allowed to the concerned affected retired Executives who had exercised option for their pay-fixation on their regular promotion as JTOs under Para 3.6 of BSNL Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2020 [View posting dated 08.11.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now, BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 5-21/2021/Estt-IV/PCGRAMS/25805 dated 04.02.2021, has replied that "it has been intimated by Calcutta Telephones that the instant case has been considered as per Para 3.6 of BSNL letter no. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010. Further the pay has been revised as per latest clarification from this BSNL CO. Estt-IV letter no. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020." [View the BSNL CO letter](#)

05.02.2021 BSNL REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ON THE ISSUE OF NON-PAYMENT OF GROUP SAVINGS LINKED INSURANCE SCHEME AMOUNT BY THE LIC TO THE BSNL EMPLOYEES RETIRED UNDER BSNL VRS-2019: AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter, vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/96 dated 08.09.2020, to Secretary (Telecom) in which it was pointed out that most of the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees were yet to receive their GSLI payment from LIC. The Association also pointed out that some of the claims which were forwarded

to the LIC still remained unsettled and none of the retirees who retired from BSNL's Offices in Delhi received the payment and many Circles were yet to forward some of the cases to the LIC for payment that included BSNL Corporate Office [View posting dated 09.09.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now, BSNL Corporate Office, while disposing of the Grievance registered in CPENGRAMS, has stated that the Corporate Office is regularly pursuing for the settlement of GSLIS cases of retired employees. It has quoted several letters issued to the Circles as well as to LIC and even supplied copies of these correspondences with Circles and LIC. [View BSNL Reply in Status Report](#) [View the copies of BSNL letters to Circles/LIC](#)

04.02.2021 BSNL FORCED TO CHANGE ITS POLICY TO DEDUCT TDS AT THE TIME OF POSTING MEDICAL BILL IN THE SAP- IMPACT OF AIBSNLREA'S SUSTAINED EFFORTS: BSNL had been deducting TDS against medical claims under BSNLMRS even without making actual payment and posting the same in Form-26 AS. This was causing serious trouble to the retired employees while submitting their annual Income Tax Returns. Now, in response to our representation to Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes, BSNL has reviewed its existing practice of deducting TDS at the time of posting of medical bills in the SAP even without making actual payment and decided to discontinue the same. Accordingly, BSNL has now decided to deduct TDS on Retiree Medical Bills at the time of payment with effect from January 2021 (i.e. Q4 of F.Y. 2020-21) onwards. Instructions in this regard has already been issued vide BSNL No. BSNLCO-TAXN/13(15)/1/2020-Taxation/4045 dated 03.02.2021. [View the BSNL order](#)

03.02.2021 CTD (BSNL) RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S LETTER DATED 20.10.2020 ADDRESSED TO SR GM(ESTT), BSNL ON WRONG PAY FIXATION OF OFFICIATING JTOs: AIBSNLREA had earlier addressed a letter to Sr. GM(Estt), BSNL, vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/126 dated 20.10.2020, countering the report given by Calcutta Telephones that "the Pay fixation has been processed as per BSNL existing guide lines" and also pointing out several other irregularities committed by Calcutta Telephones in the revised pay-fixations [View posting dated 20.10.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Calcutta Telephones, vide its No. MAS/St. South/Executive/20-21 dated 01.02.2021, has replied that it has fixed the pay as per BSNL Nos. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010 and No. BSNLCO/V/16(27)/12/2020-Estab dated 28.10.2020. Calcutta Telephones has further stated that for pay-fixation as allowed to JAO(Deptl) to all Non-Executives including the TTAs as per clarification issued vide No. BSNLCO/PRII/11(24)/14/2020-PERS1 dated 28.08.2020, it needs a clarification from BSNL Corporate Office to this effect. [View the CTD letter](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS AND LETTERS

27.02.2021 DOT ISSUES ORDERS REVISING THE EXISTING PROCEDURE FOR REVISION OF CONVERSION TO FAMILY PENSION IN CASES WHEN ELIGIBLE CLAIMANT IS OTHER THAN THE FAMILY PENSIONER MENTIONED IN THE PPO AND COMMUTATION REVISION IN RESPECT OF ALL SAMPANN PENSIONERS INCLUDING BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES: Department of Telecommunication, vide its Office Order No. 7-47/2016/PFP-Policy/Pt-1/3402 to 3433

dated 25.02.2021, has revised the existing procedure for revision of conversion to Family Pension when eligible claimant is other than the family pensioner mentioned in the PPO and also Commutation Revision in respect of all SAMPANN pensioners including the BSNL VRS-2019 pensioners. Now onwards, the requisite forms with specified documents will have to be submitted, instead of the Head of Office as at present, directly to the CCA Office which shall be performing the role of the Head Office for the purpose of these two revisions. [View the DOT Order](#)

21.02.2020 PROCESS TO BE ADOPTED FOR SETTLEMENT OF PENSION DUES WHERE A RETIREE EXPIRES PRIOR TO FILING PENSION PAPERS- DOP&PW ISSUES GUIDELINES: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 12(19)/2020-P&PW(H)-6569 dated 18.02.2021, has issued a detailed procedure for processing of the case for sanction of pension in respect of deceased retired Government servant and for sanction of family pension to his/her family. In such cases, the spouse of the deceased retired Government servant or, in the absence of the spouse, a member of his/her family eligible for family pension may submit claim in prescribed form to the Head of Office. The Head of Office, in turn, shall process the claims in prescribed form and send the same along with a forwarding letter to the PAO for authorization of pension and family pension in respect of deceased retired Government servant. The PAO, thereafter, shall authorize pension (in respect of deceased Govt servant) and family pension to the spouse/eligible family member. [View the DOP&PW OM](#)

20.02.2021 GRANT OF ANNUAL INCREMENT FALLING DUE ON THE NEXT DAY OF SUPERANNUATION/RETIREMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS- BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE ISSUES GUIDELINES TO ITS OFFICES TO DEAL WITH THE GRIEVANCES/REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM RETIRED EMPLOYEES: In the background of the Supreme Court judgment on the above issue dismissing an SLP filed by Department of Telecommunication against a judgment of Hon'ble High Court, Lucknow Bench but 'keeping all the questions of law open', BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No.48-2/2021-Pen(B) dated 18.02.2021, has issued guidelines to its various offices how to dispose of the grievances/representations received from retired employees regarding grant of notional increment falling due on the next day of superannuation/retirement for the purpose of pensionary benefits. AIBSNLREA had earlier already published the DOP&PW guidelines on this matter in the posting dated 04.02.2021 in this website. [View the BSNL letter](#)

13.02.2021 DOP&PW REVISES THE UPPER AND LOWER LIMITS OF TWO FAMILY PENSIONS PAYABLE TO A CHILD IN RESPECT OF BOTH OF THE PARENTS AFTER THE 7th CPC: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 1/1(2)/2020-P&PW(E) Part-1 dated 12.02.2021, has issued orders revising the upper and lower limits of two family pensions payable to a child in respect of both the parents after the 7th Central Pay Commission. While the higher limit has been revised at Rs. 45,000 per month, the lower limit has been fixed at Rs. 27,000 per month. For details, the Orders may be perused. [View the DOP&PW OM](#)

13.02.2021 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ISSUES DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS TO DOWNLOAD AND PRINT INDEX CARD AND VALIDITY OF CGHS CARD: Department of Health & Family Welfare, vide its F.No. S.11011/3/2021-EHS dated 10.02.2021 has issued detailed instructions for downloading Index Card and take print out of validity of CGHS

Plastic Cards for serving employees/pensioners (except whole life card). The beneficiary will no longer be required to visit the office of the Additional Director of the city/headquarters at Delhi to collect the paper Index Card. [View the Dept of Health & Family Welfare Order](#)

04.02.2021: NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS WHOSE INCREMENT DATE FALLS ON THE DAY AFTER DATE OF RETIREMENT - DOP&T SAYS DECISION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUDGEMENT OF MADRAS HIGH COURT 'IN REM' HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN: DOP&T has issued an OM reiterating its earlier stand that the implementation of the judgement dated 15.09.2017 of Hon'ble High Court of Madras in the case of P. Ayyamperumal Vs Union of India & Ors, is 'in personam' in nature. Pointing to the Supreme Court Judgement dated 29.03.2019 while dismissing SLP filed by Department of Telecommunications against the judgement dated 03.05.2017 of Hon'ble High Court, Lucknow Bench, 'keeping all the questions of law open', DOP&PW further says that since the question of law is open and not yet decided, decision for implementing the judgement of Madras High Court 'in rem' has not been taken. [View the DOP&PW OM](#)

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY, 2021

Sangrur Branch (Punjab State) has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 15.02.2021 as CHQ quota for 2 new Life Members.

Lucknow Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 11.02.2021 as CHQ quota for 2 new Life Members.

Tirunelveli Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees eight hundred (Rs. 800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 05.02.2021 as CHQ quota for 4 new Life Members.

East Godavari Branch (AP State) has deposited Rupees two thousand (Rs. 2000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 01.02.2021 as CHQ quota for 10 new Life Members.

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