



Editorial

INCOME TAX WOES

As the current Financial Year 2022-23 is closing, all of us will have to take stock of our income and savings during the year and finally decide as to which Regime – the New Tax Regime or the Old Tax Regime will be beneficial to us. In case we choose the Old Tax Regime we need to check whether our savings have been adequate for claiming deduction and go for additional savings if required. While doing this exercise, we naturally feel disappointed with the Income Tax proposals for individual taxpayers and more specifically the senior citizens in the Union Budget, as there has been no change in slabs and exemption limits, except for the increase in tax rebate under New Tax Regime to 7 lakhs. One of the positives of the New Tax Regime, as claimed by the Finance Minister is that it leaves more money in the hands of the people. This is said to encourage spending which is good for the economy. That is why while the New Tax Regime does not allow any deduction/exemption for savings and investments, for the first time Standard Deduction of Rs.50,000 is allowed. So, it will be quite justified if the additional tax exemption and rebates available for senior citizens under the Old Tax Regime are made available in the New Tax Regime too.

The rigid stand taken by BSNL by categorizing the reimbursement of one-time contribution paid to CGHS as taxable which reflects in the Form 26AS, is another issue disturbing the minds of those who switched over to CGHS in the current financial year. This issue is eluding resolution in spite of our repeated representations and finally drawing BSNL's attention to the booklet issued in the name "Tax payers information – Series 36 – VALUATION OF PERQUISITES" by the Income Tax Department wherein in page 23, under Para 4.5 b) it has been clearly stated that "Medical insurance premium paid or reimbursed by the employer is not chargeable to tax." Last year the problem was overridden by the individual pensioner by following a series of steps to remove the amount from Taxable Income in the Annual Information Statement (AIS) of Income Tax, by submitting Feedback, before filing tax return. We need to pursue this matter with more intent in the coming days to get it resolved before filing IT return this July.

Some of the pensioners who were migrated to SAMPANN recently faced an unexpected situation wherein TDS had

been deducted by the pension paying banks before migration and TDS has been again recovered by DoT after migration. The CCAs express inability to refund the amount even after acknowledging it as wrong recovery. No one seems to empathise with the affected pensioners who will have to wait till filing of ITR and getting the huge amounts refunded. We need to ensure that this is not repeated in the future in respect of others who are yet to be migrated to SAMPANN.

When we thought that we had finally put a lid on the bitterness created by BSNL in recovering TDS without actually making payment of medical claims during the years 2019-20 and 2020-21, with BSNL writing to us that “the matter has been examined and instruction has been issued to the Circles vide letter dated 3.02.2021 to discontinue the existing practice of deducting TDS at the time of posting of medical bill in the SAP and

instead of that TDS to be deducted on Retirees Medicals Bills at the time of payment with effect from January 2021 (i.e. Q4 of F.Y. 2020-21) onwards”, the problem appears to have returned to haunt BSNL pensioners of Rajasthan Circle. We have immediately taken up the issue with Sr GM (Taxation), BSNL Corporate Office and hope for urgent resolution.

While the tax exemption for senior citizens, as envisaged in the National Policy for Older Persons, remains on paper and the hassles of calculating and opting for one or other regime of income tax and filing of ITR add to their trouble, issues created by DoT/BSNL result in further frustration of the pensioners. Albert Einstein once said that “The hardest thing in the world to understand is income tax.” This holds good even today. ■



Important Developments of the Month

UNION BUDGET 2023-24 - ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING INCOME TAX & SAVINGS: No change in tax slabs of old income tax regime. New income tax regime will now be the default regime but taxpayers have an option to choose old regime. Standard deduction of Rs.50000 to salaried individual will now be allowed under the new income tax regime also. Rebate limit under the new tax regime to be increased from Rs 5 lakhs to Rs 7 lakhs. Encashment of earned leave up to 10 months of average salary at the time of retirement in case of an employee other than an employee of the Central Government or State Government is exempt under sub clause (ii) of clause (10AA) of section 10 of the Income Tax Act to the extent notified. The maximum amount which can be exempted is Rs 3 lakhs at present. It is proposed to issue a notification to extend this limit to Rs 25 lakhs.

Under the senior citizen savings scheme, the maximum investment limit has been increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh. This has been a long time demand from AIBSNLREA.

✚ **DOT FINALLY ISSUES ORDERS REMOVING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THOSE WHO RETIRED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 2017 TO APRIL 2018:**

AIBSNLREA's prolonged and continuous efforts have finally succeeded with DoT issuing orders vide its OM No.40-12/2004-Pen(T)(Pt) dated 20th February 2023, extending the benefit of DoT order No.40-12/2004-Pen(T)(Pt) dated 17.05.2018 to absorbed BSNL employees who have retired between 05.07.2017 and 17.05.2018, after obtaining an undertaking that in the event of the court orders are in favour of DoT, the over paid amount due to grant of an extra increment in the post based promotion under EPP will be refunded.

✚ **VIRTUAL MEETING OF AIBSNLREA CHQ OFFICE BEARERS HELD:** A virtual meeting of CHQ Office bearers of AIBSNLREA was held on 24.02.2023. Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President presided over the meeting. GS detailed the important activities of the CHQ since the last meeting. He explained that the DoT order, finally ending discrimination against those who retired from July 2017 to April 2018 by denying them the benefit of extra increment on regular promotion to DE/AGM grade, is a significant achievement of AIBSNLREA, after lengthy and consistent efforts. Then, the progress in the decisions taken in the last meeting was reviewed. All the CHQ office bearers briefed the meeting about the progress made. All of them expressed satisfaction towards the activities of CHQ during the last one month. There were elaborate discussions on the problems faced in availing CGHS benefits and the need for increase in number of Wellness Centres and staffing. The meeting decided to collect specific cases of discrepancies and shortcomings in functioning of CGHS as experienced by Branch members and to take up those issues with CGHS Directorate with unrelenting determination. All CHQ office bearers will co-ordinate with the Branches to compile the required details. Branches will be requested to communicate specific cases to the CHQ. The 90 minutes-long virtual meeting was positive and purposeful.

✚ **INCREASE OF CGHS CHARGES ON THE CARDS:** According to media reports, the health ministry has constituted a committee that is evaluating the charges applicable to users—mostly serving and retired central government employees as well as their families. The new fees may be announced next month. "We are revising the CGSH rates for empanelled private hospitals. Definitely, rates are going to get increased and this will attract more bigger private hospitals to join CGHS. The committee is reviewing the rate right now. After that, it will go to the finance division for approval and later it will be submitted before the health minister. Within one month, the entire process should be completed," said an official aware of the matter.



Issues taken up

28.02.2023: AIBSNLREA TAKES UP WITH SR.GENERAL MANAGER (PERS) BSNL CO THE ISSUE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDERS OF SUPREME COURT OF

INDIA IN CA NO. 4389 OF 2010 - HOLDING OF REVIEW DPCS FOR PROMOTION TO DE GRADE BASED ON THE REVISED SENIORITY LISTS OF TES GROUP B IN RESPECT OF DE PROMOTIONS ORDERED BY DOT PRIOR TO FORMATION OF BSNL AND EXTENDING THE CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Sr. General Manager (Pers) to the fact that "Although BSNL has conducted Five Review DPCs in respect of earlier DPCs conducted by BSNL for regular promotion to DE/AGM grade, no Review DPC has been held till date in respect of DPCs for promotion to DE grade held during DoT period prior to formation of BSNL. When we took up the matter with DoT, we are told that all records/files had been handed over to BSNL after its formation and are available with BSNL and hence BSNL only needs to take action on this matter. Non-conduct of review DPCs in respect of those who were promoted as DE during DoT period and extending consequential benefits to them amounts to discrimination against them and also non-implementation of orders of Supreme Court of India in full." AIBSNLREA has requested him that action may be caused to be initiated for conducting of review DPCs in respect of all the DPCs for promotion to DE grade held during DoT period and issue of revised promotion orders, in order to remove the discrimination. [View the letter](#)

23.02.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, CGHS, SUGGESTING FACILITATING INDOOR/HOSPITAL CASHLESS TREATMENT OF CGHS BENEFICIARIES RESIDING IN NON-CGHS AREAS, THROUGH STATE GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEMES LIKE RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT HEALTH SCHEME:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Director General, CGHS, to some State Government Schemes wherein the employees and retired employees have the option to get cashless treatment in hundreds of empanelled Speciality/Multi-speciality private hospitals and has requested him that Department of Health & Family Welfare workout some Understanding/Agreement with these State Governments to facilitate CGHS card holders avail cashless inpatient treatment in hospitals empanelled under State Government Health Scheme in order to give relief to the CGHS beneficiaries residing in non-CGHS areas. [View the letter](#)

20.02.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, CGHS, ON MISERABLE SITUATION WHERE A BSNL PENSIONER OR HIS FAMILY MEMBER FALLS ILL AND REQUIRES INDOOR TREATMENT AFTER SURRENDERING HIS BSNLMRS CARD BUT BEFORE GETTING A CGHS CARD:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Director General, CGHS, to a miserable and tragic situation wherein a BSNL Pensioner or his family member falls ill and requires indoor treatment after surrendering his BSNLMRS card but before getting a CGHS card and has requested him to get suitable guidelines issued, similar to the one on reimbursement when Central Government Pensioners take treatment immediately after retirement before getting CGHS cards, issued vide F.No.12011/64/98-CGHS Desk-I/CGHS(P) dated 15.09.2011. [View the letter](#)

15.02.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PGM (ESTT) BSNL CO REQUESTING RELEASE OF WITHHELD DCRG – CASE OF SHRI PREM SHANKAR PRASAD, RETD SDE, DHANBAD:

AIBSNLREA has addressed PGM (Estt) BSNL seeking his attention towards the grievance of Shri Prem Shankar Prasad, Retd SDE, Dhanbad, who has been denied payment of his DCRG on his retirement due to pending CBI case which has been prolonging for more than 18 years now. [View the letter](#)

09.02.2023: AIBSNLREA SUBMITS RESOLUTION REGARDING STOPPING OF CONTINUOUS HARASSMENT OF BSNL PENSIONERS BY CATEGORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION PAID TO CGHS AS TAXABLE BY BSNL AND REFLECTING IN THE FORM 26AS, PASSED IN THE THIRD AIC HELD AT KOLKATA, TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA:

Kolkata AIC Resolution on Stopping of continuous harassment of BSNL pensioners by categorizing the reimbursement of one-time contribution paid to CGHS as taxable by BSNL and reflecting in the Form 26AS, has been submitted by AIBSNLREA to the Prime Minister of India requesting him to advise BSNL to stop harassing the pensioners by showing the reimbursed amount as taxable income. [View the letter](#)

08.02.2023: AIBSNLREA SEEKS INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA IN THE MATTER OF "INADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF AYURVEDIC AND HOMEOPATHY MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE WELLNESS CENTRES UNDER CGHS":

AIBSNLREA has submitted AIC Kolkata resolution on "Inadequate availability of Ayurvedic and Homeopathy medical facilities in the wellness centres under CGHS" to Prime Minister of India and sought his intervention and advice to DoH&FW to resolve the issue at the earliest. [View the letter](#)

06.02.2023: AIBSNLREA SUBMITS RESOLUTION REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR INCLUDING WITHOUT VOUCHER CLAIMS UNDER BSNLMRS, PENDING SINCE THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19, TO THE BSNL RETIREES BY BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED, PASSED IN THE THIRD AIC HELD AT KOLKATA, TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA:

Kolkata AIC Resolution on Non-payment of medical claims, indoor and outdoor including without voucher claims under BSNLMRS, pending since the financial year 2018-19, to the BSNL Retirees by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, has been submitted by AIBSNLREA to the Prime Minister of India requesting him to advise BSNL to monitor the implementation of its instructions closely and ensure that not a single claim is left unpaid. [View the letter](#)

03.02.2023: AIBSNLREA SEEKS INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA IN THE MATTER OF "IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED IN CGHS FUNCTIONING – INCREASING NUMBER OF EMPANELLED HOSPITALS, NUMBER OF WELLNESS CENTRES, ONLINE CMO APPROVAL OF INVESTIGATION ADVISED BY EMPANELLED HOSPITALS":

AIBSNLREA has submitted AIC Kolkata resolution on "Improvements required in CGHS functioning – Increasing number of empanelled hospitals, number of wellness centres, online CMO approval of investigation advised by empanelled hospitals" to Prime Minister of India and sought his intervention and advice to DoH&FW to resolve the issue at the earliest. [View the letter](#)

02.02.2023: AIBSNLREA SUBMITS RESOLUTION REGARDING SUDDEN DROPPING OF THE AGENDA TO INTRODUCE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR PENSIONERS INCLUDING THOSE RESIDING IN NON-CGHS AREA FROM THE MEETINGS OF SCOVA, PASSED IN THE THIRD AIC HELD AT KOLKATA, TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA:

Kolkata AIC Resolution on Grant of Sudden dropping of the agenda to Introduce Health Insurance Scheme for pensioners including those residing in Non-CGHS area from the meetings of SCOVA, has been submitted by AIBSNLREA to the Prime Minister of India requesting him to advise DoP&PW to resolve the issue immediately. [View the letter](#)

01.02.2023: AIBSNLREA SEEKS INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA IN THE MATTER OF "NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSURANCE TO EXTEND THE BENEFIT OF OPTION TO RETAIN CDA PAY SCALE TILL THEIR PROMOTION OR RETIREMENT WHICHEVER IS EARLIER OFFERED IN THE GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR ABSORPTION TO THE GROUP C & D EMPLOYEES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS":

AIBSNLREA has submitted AIC Kolkata resolution on "Non-implementation of assurance to extend the benefit of option to retain CDA pay scale till their promotion or retirement whichever is earlier offered in the General Terms and Conditions of Service for absorption to the Group C & D employees by the Department of Telecommunications" to Prime Minister of India and sought his intervention and advice to DoT to resolve the issue at the earliest. [View the letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

20.02.2023: DOT FINALLY ISSUES ORDERS REMOVING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THOSE WHO RETIRED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 2017 TO APRIL 2018:

AIBSNLREA's prolonged and continuous efforts have finally succeeded with DoT issuing orders vide its OM No.40-12/2004-Pen(T)(Pt) dated 20th February 2023, extending the benefit of DoT order No.40-12/2004-Pen(T)(Pt) dated 17.05.2018 to absorbed BSNL employees who have retired between 05.07.2017 and 17.05.2018, after obtaining an undertaking that in the event of the court orders are in favour of DoT, the over paid amount due to grant of an extra increment in the post based promotion under EPP will be refunded. [View the DoT letter](#)

02.02.2023: BSNL CO PLANS TO LAUNCH WEB BASED PORTAL FOR RETIRED EMPLOYEES FOR SUBMITTING AND CHECKING THE STATUS OF MEDICAL CLAIMS W.E.F. 1ST MARCH 2023:

Director (HR) BSNL has requested all Heads of Circles to bestow their personal attention in the matter so that the portal "Goes Live" w.e.f. 1st March 2023, asserting that this portal will be a great asset to the retired employees and to the organisation as a whole. [View the letter from Director \(HR\) BSNL](#)



RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

27.02.2023: DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 26TH DECEMBER 2022 REGARDING REGULARIZATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERRUPTION IN EXCESS OF JOINING TIME, DUE TO THE TRAINING AND REGULAR APPOINTMENT BEING AT DIFFERENT STATIONS, BY GRANT OF LEAVE OF THE KIND DUE OR IF NO SUCH LEAVE IS DUE, BY GRANT OF EXTRAORDINARY LEAVE – CASE OF SHRI AJAY KUMAR DUBEY, RETD AGM, AGRA TELECOM DISTRICT:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter addressed to Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW on the subject, DoT has replied that "Case has resolved", without mentioning how and by whom it has been resolved and without attaching any order resolving the issue. An appeal has been registered by AIBSNLREA seeking how and by whom the case has been resolved. [View the DoT response](#)

24.02.2023: DOP&PW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 27TH JANUARY 2023, ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SUBMITTING AIC RESOLUTION ON GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR PENSIONARY BENEFITS IN THE CASES WHERE ANNUAL INCREMENT IS DUE ON THE NEXT DAY OF RETIREMENT:

AIBSNLREA had submitted Kolkata AIC Resolution on Grant of notional increment for Pensionary benefits in the cases where annual increment is due on the next day of retirement, to the Prime Minister of India, requesting him to advise DoP&T to resolve the issue immediately. The letter had been forwarded to DoP&PW which has now replied that "In the matter of granting notional increment for pensionary benefits to those Central government servants who have retired on 30th June/ 31st December of a year, DoPT vide [OM No.19/2/2018-Estt \(Pay-I\) dated 03.02.2021](#) and [F. No. 1453545/2021-Estt \(Pay-I\) dated 24.06.2021](#) has issued instructions." [View the DoP&PW reply](#)

21.02.2023: DOP&PW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 7TH AUGUST 2022 ON GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THOSE EMPLOYEES WHO HAD RETIRED ONE DAY BEFORE THEIR ANNUAL INCREMENT:

AIBSNLREA had requested Secretary (Pension) DoP&PW, to have the grievance re-examined with compassion and order extension of the benefit of notional increment for pensionary benefits to all the similarly placed pensioners. The grievance was wrongly forwarded to BSNL which was sitting on it for four months and then closed it stating that the case is subjudice, while BSNL has no role to play on this matter. The grievance was resubmitted and DoP&PW has now closed the docket stating that "This is not a grievance. The matter pertains to demand/suggestion for change in govt policy." [View the DoP&PW reply](#)

13.02.2023: DOP&PW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 12.10.2022 REQUESTING ISSUE OF EARLY ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL QUANTUM OF PENSION ON ATTAINING THE AGE OF 65 YEARS, 70 YEARS AND 75 YEARS:

AIBSNLREA vide its letter No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2022/42 dated 11th October 2022 had drawn the attention of Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW to a Himachal Pradesh

Government order facilitating Additional quantum of Pension on attaining the age of 65 years, 70 years and 75 Years and requested him to issue early orders based on recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. DoP&PW has now replied that "As recommended by the Parliamentary Committee, the matter was pursued with the Ministry of Finance. However the same was not agreed to. Accordingly, a report was submitted to the Parliamentary Committee for their perusal which has been noted by the committee." [View the DoP&PW reply](#)

10.02.2023: DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 12.10.2022 REQUESTING TO ACHIEVE PAY SCALE PARITY BETWEEN BSNL AND MTNL EXECUTIVES:

AIBSNLREA vide its letter No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2022/42 dated 12th October 2022 had pointed out to DoT OM dated 28.04.2014 which had stated that the arrangement as specified in para (c) of the OM shall continue till next wage revision by which time MTNL and BSNL shall achieve pay scale parity by bringing down the pay scales of MTNL to the level of BSNL pay scales. The Association had requested that "Now that 3rd PRC recommendations for the Executives are not getting implemented for BSNL Executives for one reason or the other, the Pay Scales of BSNL Executives be raised at the level of MTNL Executives w.e.f. 01.01.2017, in the light of the above decisions of the Government". DoT has now replied that "Any such proposal as demanded for enhancing the pay scales of BSNL to the level of MTNL would be against the decision of Cabinet." [View the DoT reply](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

26.02.2023: AIBSNLREA VARANASI BRANCH (UP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Varanasi Branch was held on 25th February 2023 from 10.30 AM to 2 PM at Angeethi Restaurant near Assi Ghat Varanasi. Sri P M Ansari President of Varanasi Branch Presided over the meeting. 29 members attended the meeting. The meeting passed resolution congratulating all the CHQ office bearers elected in AIC Kolkata on 7th and 8th January 2023. Sri R K Sinha CHQ Joint Secretary briefed about the AIC proceedings and the deliberations in the two virtual meetings of CHQ office bearers. Members appreciated the functioning of CHQ. The meeting passed another resolution for reopening of second CGHS Wellness Center in Varanasi. Sri P M Ansari President thanked all members for participating in the meeting. [View the Photos](#)

25.02.2023: AIBSNLREA VADODARA BRANCH (GUJARAT STATE) HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The Quarterly General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA Vadodara branch (Gujarat State) was held on 1100 hrs. of 17-02-2023 at Hotel Utsav, Vadodara. 74 out of 153 members attended the meeting. The new members were welcomed by President, Shri Modi K A, in his welcome speech. The report of AIC Kolkata in details was presented by Shri Patel

H V, a delegate of AIC Kolkata. The meeting was conducted by Shri Shah R T, Branch Secretary. He had covered all current issues, like Pension Revision latest condition, benefits & difficulties after migration to CCA from Banks, CGHS issues, pending medical bills of BSNL, etc. The issues raised by members were replied & noted for further persuasion. The members were disappointed by knowing, Gujarat has not got good posts in CHQ even though Gujarat is having more than 1300 members out of 6731 total members of AIBSNLREA. The vote of Thanks was given by Shri Joshi A B. The meeting was followed by delicious Lunch. [View the Photos](#)

17.02.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA PALAKKAD BRANCH (KERALA STATE) HELD:

A GB meeting of Palakkad Branch was held on Tuesday the 14.2.2023 at TOP IN TOWN Auditorium, Palakkad. The meeting started at 11AM with a silent prayer. 50 members attended the meeting. The Secretary welcomed the gathering. During the welcome speech the Secretary reported the election of Mr. K. Gopinathan as the new CHQ Organising Secretary (South) in the recently held All India Conference at Kolkata. All members felicitated Mr. Gopinathan on his unanimous election as Organising Secretary (South) and congratulated him and wished him all success in his new assignment. Mr. Gopinathan and Mr .A.L.Viswanathan, the delegates to the above conference shared their experience in the conference and reported that the conference was a perfectly held event with no room for any complaints and congratulated the Organisers and the All India Committee. During the discussion on organisational matters, the President Mr.Ramanathan and the secretary Mr. Prabhakaran spoke in detail on all matters regarding payment of medical bills, migration to Sampann and CGHS and pension revision. As the Financial Secretary Mr. K.C.Venkitachalam informed that he will not be in a position to continue due to personal reasons, Mr. P. Swaminathan, Retd SDE was elected as Financial Secretary. The meeting concluded at 1-30 PM after vote of thanks by Asst Secretary Mr.P.P.Krishnanunni. Lunch was served after concluding the meeting.

16.02.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA MUMBAI BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HELD:

General body meeting of Mumbai Branch was held on 14. 02.2023 at 1300 hrs sharp in conference Hall, BSNL administrative building, 1st floor, B wing, Juhu road, Santa Cruz (w), Mumbai 400054. Comrade Vasudeva presided over the meeting. He welcomed all members for attending the meeting at a very short notice. The house then observed 2 minutes silence in memory of our departed comrades during this period. Secretary of Mumbai branch read out the Minutes of last General body meeting which was passed by the house without any modifications. State President of Maharashtra Comrade Vasudeva in his address informed the house about all developments at CHQ & Circle level and briefed about all Deliberations of AIC KOLKATA and resolutions passed there in detail. Branch Secretary appreciated the work of comrade Vasudeva & efforts taken by him for Association, his guidance, and incomparable initiative at the age of 83 years. Then the Secretary informed about the amendment to Constitution approved by the AIC, enhancing the membership fee from Rs 500 to Rs 1000 & enrollment fee from Rs 50 to Rs 100 effective from 1st April 2023. He requested the members to enroll new members. He gave vote of thanks & meeting was declared as over at 1500 hrs.

14.02.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA THANJAVUR/KUMBakonAM BRANCH (TAMILNADU STATE) HELD:

A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Thanjavur/Kumbakonam branch was conducted at Kumbakonam on 12.02.2023. Shri.E.Rajasekaran Branch President presided over the meeting. Smt.R.Jayalakshmi welcomed all and requested all to participate in the discussions. Shri.E.Rajasekaran Branch President, Shri.R.J.Christopher, Branch Secretary and Shri M.S.Radhakrishnan, State Secretary, spoke on various subjects. The well organised All India Conference, participation of a good number of delegates / guests from Tamilnadu, the important points in our General Secretary's report, the resolutions and decisions of the AIC, the election of new office bearers were elaborately reported. The Branch activities, the approach of the administration, status of payment of Medical bills / FMA, issues of CGHS, issues related to migration to SAMPANN, the present status of pay revision of BSNL staff and Pension revision were discussed in details. The queries raised by the members were answered. Three new members have joined our association in the meeting. The meeting was very purposeful and effective. Members donated liberally to the Branch.

14.02.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA AMBALA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HELD:

14.02.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA AMBALA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HELD: The general body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 11th February 2023 at Dilli Durbar Restaurant. 32 Members attended the meeting which was presided over by Shri R K Sharma Branch President. At the outset the President welcomed all the participants. Then condolences were paid to our member Shri CM Handa Retired SE from Electrical wing who expired since our last meeting. Shri Yogesh Sharma a member from Kurukshetra Branch also joined our meeting as guest. Then Shri S K Aggarwal Branch Secretary briefed the members in detail on the various issues that were discussed in our AIC at Kolkata. The members were briefed on the issue of pension revision status vis-a-vis the stand of other Associations which is changing from time to time, medical payments for BSNL retirees, Income tax deductions on one time reimbursement of CGHS contributions, enhancement of pension on attaining the age of 65, 70 and 75 years and all other issues in GS report discussed in the AIC. Election of new Branch Secretary was also conducted due to present BS being elected in CHQ body. Shri S K Bindal was unanimously elected as new Branch Secy. Shri Yogesh Sharma and Sh K.L Gakhar enthralled the members with their songs. The meeting ended with vote of thanks and was followed by Lunch.

11.02.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA KURUKSHETRA BRANCH HELD:

A general body meeting of AIBSNLREA Kurukshetra branch was held on 8.02.2023 at 11.00 in Haryana Tourism Neelkanthi resort. Shri S K Verma Branch President presided over the well attended meeting. Shri R.S.Sandhu Joint Secretary CHQ and Shri Balbir Singh Branch Secretary Patiala were also present . At the very outset Branch Secretary Shri Rajvir Choudhary welcomed the Joint Secretary and the members and requested Shri Jogi Ram State Secretary to brief the members about the deliberations of the AIC which he had attended recently at Kolkatta. Shri Jogi Ram explained in detail about important features of GS report containing complete account of activities of the

Association over the previous three years. It was informed that detailed discussions were held on Pay/pension revision and the stand of AIBSNREA was appreciated and approved by the AIC. Before ending the meeting a resolution was unanimously passed to place on record the appreciation for the long and valuable services rendered by Com S Basu the outgoing General Secretary of this great association which he founded and served tirelessly. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks followed by lunch.

02.02.2023: AIBSNLREA AMRAVATI BRANCH HELD ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Executive Committee Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Amravati Branch was held under the Chairmanship of Shri V. G. Dakhode , State Secretary , at about 1400 hrs of 29th January 2023 in the Hotel " GRACE INN " Amravati. The meeting was attended by all the Executive Members of the Branch. The Branch Secretary informed the house about the developments taken place after the last meeting. He elaborated account of the developments in respect of payment of pending medical claims. It was understood that most of the pending medical claims, with and without vouchers are settled & payments are received by most of the members. Then he discussed in detail about the latest position of the Court Case developments and highlighted the important key issues of the BSNL being processed at State & All India level. The queries raised by the members were duly replied by him. The main discussion in the meeting was holding of the Divisional Conference of AIBSNLREA Branch Amravati on 20th of February 2023. The Venue was confirmed as the " HOTEL GRACEE INN " opp. Rajapeth Police Station Amravati. After address by the State Secretary, the meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri M.Z.Shinde , Finance Secretary of AIBSNLREA Amravati Branch.

02.02.2023: QUARTERLY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA PUNE BRANCH HELD:

Pune Branch conducted its quarterly meeting on 28th January 2023 at Conference Hall, Bajirao Road Telephone Bhavan, Pune. During the meeting there were 72 young retired officers including ladies comrades present. Conference Hall was full jam packed and healthy pleasant atmosphere was noticed by one and all. Meeting was chaired under the dynamic Presidentship of Dr S.K.RAMAMURTHY who welcomed all the existing executives and New members and Briefed the meeting Agenda and directed Branch Secretary to proceed accordingly. Pune Branch Secretary S.C.Patil once again welcomed all the executives on behalf of Pune Branch. Ten new members were added on the same day. As a customary practice, President & Branch Secretary welcomed new members by offering Rose flowers and distributed Makarasankrant/Pongal festival sweets in the meeting to all. Nearly 20 members who completed their birthday in the quarter were present and AIBSNLREA Pune Branch celebrated their birthday by lighting lamps and cutting cake. Felicitation programme was also arranged for those who completed 75 years of age but not attended due to personal issue.[View Maharashtra State page of State News for full text]

Edited and published by R.R.Balasubramanian, General Secretary, AIBSNLREA.