



Editorial

AS WE LOOK AHEAD, OUR TASK IS CLEAR

Most of us, the BSNL pensioners, lead a comfortable and peaceful retired life, drawing a substantial amount of pension every month unmindful of the dwindling returns from the deposits of our pensionary benefits due to ever reducing interest rates, drastic increase in cost of medicines and still lacking reasonable medical facilities. Occasionally we are perturbed by matters like submission of Life Certificate, filing of IT return, non-payment of medical reimbursement claims, delay in restoration of commuted value of pension after attaining the age of 75 years, executing the process for switch over to CGHS etc. AIBSNLREA and its branches have been actively helping the members in getting such matters settled. AIBSNLREA will continue to look for remedies on reasonable deposit interest rates, income tax rates and medical care for the BSNL pensioners.

A relatively larger section of the BSNL pensioners appear to believe that Pension Revision can be achieved without pay revision, with the fond hope that one or other pensioner association is going to get it delinked, putting trust on the twisted facts these associations present to keep their members entertained and excited. The serving employees' unions

and associations also join the chorus of 'delinking pension revision from pay revision' in order to cover up their own failure in securing pay revision. All these leaders know that pension revision came into existence only to resolve the anomaly in pension between two pensioners who were in the same scale and grade while in service but one retired in the old pay scale before pay revision and the other after getting the revised scale. They hide the fact that Supreme judgment in D S Nakara case only paved the way for the past pensioners to get pension revision following Pay Scale revision. AIBSNLREA has been presenting the factual position explaining in all details, but naturally human minds tend to have a desire for pleasant things said even if it is illusory and refuse to accept the bitter truth. But AIBSNLREA cannot enact melodrama like others and will look for only practical and achievable solutions.

There is a small number of pensioners who are struggling to get their regular pension and pensionary benefits many years after their retirement, either due to a disciplinary proceeding or a court case related to their official work and even after closure of the proceedings. A few continue to suffer due to wrong fixation of basic pension for various reasons due to

ambiguous language used in orders of DoT/BSNL, the CCAs interpreting the orders as per their own wisdom, the CCAs refusing to act on BSNL guidelines in the absence of endorsement by DoT and lack of knowledge of rules and procedures at all levels of BSNL administration. Recently we came across an instance where BSNL circle forwarded pension papers of a pensioner who had been issued with Vigilance Clearance on acquittal by a court, only after one year of grant of VC. A CCA wants clear VC for settling the pension, not understanding the fact that VC is a VC and there is no clear or conditional VC. Another CCA feels his job is over by stating that clarification has been sought from DoT Headquarters, even after pointing out that no clarification has been given by DoT Headquarters for 2 years. Another grievance is kept in cold storage by the CCA citing 'pending litigation', ignoring the fact that this is a sheer case of discrimination, and no court has asked

them to discriminate against those who retired during a specific period. Another pensioner has been left suffering in respect of condonation of administrative delay in issue of posting order after training, with BSNL CO and the Circle administration pointing finger to each other. While we have been able to resolve a number of such individual grievances, by repeatedly and unrelentingly pursuing the issues, quite a few remain unresolved yet, due to lethargy and apathy shown by all the concerned officials, right from DoT and its units to BSNL and its units. AIBSNLREA will continue its unflinching efforts to shake those authorities out of their slumber and get the grievances resolved. When we see the individual's agony end and the smile return to his face, it gives us all the satisfaction and the strength to move further with determination. Unlike in the case of other associations, our task is well set and clear.



Important Developments of the Month

- ✚ The Department of Telecom (DoT) should consider carving out MTNL's debt and assets worth over Rs.26,500 crore into a special purpose vehicle and then merge its operations with BSNL, according to a Parliamentary panel. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology chaired by Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor has said there is still hope from BSNL which is trying to earn revenue.
- ✚ According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for the months December 2021, January and February 2022, the revised IDA rate due w.e.f. 01.04.2022 is 185.3% [increase by 1.2%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and 381.7% [increase by 2.1%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.



Issues taken up

16.03.2022: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO DIRECTOR (F) BSNL REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF INCORRECT CLARIFICATION ISSUED BY BSNL ON TAXABILITY OF REIMBURSED ONE-TIME CGHS CONTRIBUTION

PAID BY BSNL PENSIONERS:

AIBSNLREA has again taken up the matter with Director (F) BSNL, now drawing attention to the contents of the booklet published by the Income Tax Department in the name "Tax payers information - Series 36 - VALUATION OF PERQUISITES" wherein it has been clearly stated that "Medical insurance premium paid or reimbursed by the employer is not chargeable to tax", and has requested to withdraw the clarification and stop deducting tax on this account with immediate effect. [View the letter](#)

02.03.2022: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO SECRETARY DOT REQUESTING EARLY ISSUE OF CLARIFICATION SOUGHT FOR BY PCCA TAMILNADU ON SETTLEMENT OF PENSION CASES OF THOSE WHO RETIRED UNDER BSNL VRS 2019 DURING CURRENCY OF PENALTY:

AIBSNLREA has again taken up the matter with Secretary, DoT, requesting early issue of the clarification sought for by PCCA Tamilnadu more than a year back so as to put an end to the agony of Shri V.Sampathkumar Retd AO Erode SSA. [View the letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

30.03.2022: EXTENSION OF VALIDITY PERIOD OF ALREADY EMPANELLED HEALTH CARE ORGANISATIONS (HCOs) UNDER CGHS:

DG CGHS has issued orders extending the empanelment of all Health Care Organisations already empanelled under CGHS for a period of six months w.e.f. 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 or the next empanelment whichever is earlier. [View the DG CGHS order](#)

28.03.2022: REVIEW DPC IN COMPLIANCE OF SUPREME COURT DIRECTIONS IN CA No. 4389 OF 2010:

Consequent to revision of SDEs (T) seniority list as per Rule 206 of P&T Manual Volume IV in compliance of Supreme Court directions in CA No.4389 of 2010, BSNL has now conducted review DPC of the Regular DPCs held in the year 2014 and has issued orders promoting 60 executives to DE/AGM grade regular notionally w.e.f. 20.08.2014 and antedating their date of promotion, promoting 30 executives notionally w.e.f. 20.08.2014, who were never promoted in the original DPC and postponing the date of promotion to 20.08.2014 in respect of 224 executives. While there is no change in date of promotion of 1903 executives, 98 executives remain un-assessed due to non-availability of ACRs for the relevant periods. 3 Executives are promoted after the end of their currency of penalty, (date mentioned against their name) subject to VC. [View the BSNL order](#)



RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

31.03.2022: CCA KARNATAKA CIRCLE WRITES TO GENERAL MANAGER (HR) O/o CGMT KARNATAKA WITH REFERENCE TO OUR LETTER DATED 9TH FEBRUARY 2022 ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY DO&PW:

Referring to our representation dated 9th February 2022 registered in CPENGRAMS, in respect of non-settlement of final superannuation pension, release of CDRG and grant of CVP in respect of Shri G P Biradar, Retd DE, BGTD, the CCA Karnataka Circle has written to GM (HR), O/o CGMT Karnataka Circle, requesting to ensure a clear VC in respect of Shri G P Biradar, as in other similar cases. [View the CCA Karnataka letter](#)

26.03.2022: WITHDRAWAL OF INCORRECT CLARIFICATION ISSUED BY BSNL ON TAXABILITY OF REIMBURSED ONE-TIME CGHS CONTRIBUTION PAID BY BSNL PENSIONERS - BSNL INTIMATES THT MATTER CAN BE REVISITED ONCE DECISION IS TAKEN:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter addressed to Director (F) BSNL, now drawing attention to the contents of the booklet published by the Income Tax Department in the name "Tax payers information - Series 36 - VALUATION OF PERQUISITES" wherein it has been clearly stated that "Medical insurance premium paid or reimbursed by the employer is not chargeable to tax", and requesting to withdraw the clarification and stop deducting tax on this account with immediate effect, DoT has closed the grievance docket with the remarks that "The said grievance was forwarded to the BSNL who has intimated that: BEING A POLICY MATTER CAN BE REVISITED ONCE DECISION IS TAKEN. LETTER ALREADY ADDRESSED TO DIR(F) FOR N/A". [View the DoT remarks](#)

22.03.2022: DOT DISPOSES OF OUR APPEAL STATING THAT IT IS LEARNT FROM THE CONCERNED CELL THAT (MEDICAL BILL) PAYMENT SHALL BE DONE SHORTLY:

AIBSNLREA has been repeatedly and unrelentingly taking up the issue of non-payment of medical reimbursement bills for pensioners for the past 3 years. We had written to Secretary (Pension) DoP&PW on 25th November 2021 requesting to direct BSNL to specify a date in the near future within which all the pending medical claims will be paid. The letter was forwarded to BSNL by DoP&PW. BSNL had closed the case with a irresponsible reply that it being a policy matter, does not relate to CB&B division. We had made an appeal against this closure. Now DoT has replied that "It is learnt from concerned cell that payment shall be done shortly." Date of action on the appeal is shown as 07/03/2022. [View the DoT reply](#)

01.03.2022: GM TD NELLORE RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER REGARDING GRIEVANCE OF SHRI C H SUBRAHMANYAM RETD SDE NELLORE:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 1st October 2021 addressed to the CGMT AP Circle, on discrepancy in pay fixation in IDA pay scale on absorption in BSNL w.e.f. 01.10.2000 resulting in lesser pension in respect of Shri C H Subrahmanyam Retd SDE Nellore, GM TD Nellore has replied that the matter was taken up with Circle Office and the pensioner was informed that his request for change of option cannot be acceded as it is time barred. [View the GM TD Nellore letter](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

29.03.2022: AIBSNLREA VARANASI BRANCH HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

A general body meeting of AIBSNLREA Varanasi Branch was held on 24-03-22 at CTO building for Holi Milan Samaroh and for discussing the matters of pensioners' welfare and CGHS beneficiary facilities. The meeting decided to hold the AGB on 10.05.2022 to elect the new body of office bearers. Three new members were enrolled.

24.03.2022: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA NAGPUR BRANCH HELD:

The Annual General Body Meeting of Nagpur Branch was held on 15.3.2022. Before starting the Meeting, a two minutes' silence was observed for paying tribute to our departed members. Branch Vice-President Shri V.W. Patil presided over the meeting. Circle Vice-President Shri N.G. Talewar, BR V/P. Shri B.D. Nikam, Assistant Circle Secretary Shri Bhola Kamble, Finance Secretary Shri B.P. Majumdar and Branch Secretary Shri Arun Deshpande were sitting on the dais. [\[View Maharashtra Section of State News page to read the full report\]](#)

23.03.2022: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA PALAKKAD BRANCH HELD:

The annual GB meeting of Palakkad Branch was held on 22.3.2022 at Top In Town auditorium, Palakkad at 11 AM. 57 members were present in the meeting. 2 new members also joined. The Secretary presented the annual report and it was passed unanimously. Financial Secretary presented the report of accounts and the same was passed by the GB. New office bearers were elected in the meeting for the next term. Shri P Prabhakaran was re-elected as Secretary, unanimously. There were elaborate discussions in the meeting on various issues being faced by BSNL Pensioners. The meeting urged the Central Government to take urgent actions for the revision of pension of retired BSNL employees and for the immediate release of necessary funds for clearing all medical bills including with/without voucher cases pending for payment to the retired BSNL employees since 2018. The meeting was concluded at 2 PM after lunch. [View the list of new office bearers](#)

10.03.2022: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA CHENNAI BRANCH HELD:

The General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Chennai was held on 3rd March 2022 at Hotel Saravana Bhavan, Ashoknagar, Chennai-600083. The meeting commenced with prayer song by Com.Nirmala Subramanian. Com.V.Dakshinamoorthy President welcomed all members who had assembled in large numbers after nearly two years during which no meeting could be conducted due to Corona and in his address he requested CHQ to take up the issue of reduction of number of years for restoration of Commuted pension from the present 15years as the interest rates have come down, getting additional pension after completion of 65,70 ,75 years at 5%,10%and 15% respectively instead of 20% pension increase after completion of 80years of age. He requested CHQ to give reminder to DOT/BSNL to pay the CGHS fees directly instead of reimbursement as our association has already taken up the issue long back. [\[View Tamilnadu Section of State News Page of this website to read the full Report\]](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING MARCH 2022

East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch (Maharashtra State) deposited Rupees three thousand (Rs.3000/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 23.03.2022 as CHQ Quota (Rs. Rs. 1000/-) for 5 new Life Members and donation (Rs. 2000) from 4 members @ Rs. 500/-

Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu Circle) deposited Rupees two thousand two hundred (Rs.2200/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 23.03.2022 as CHQ Quota for 11 new Life Members.

Shimla Branch (Himachal Pradesh Circle) deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs.400/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 23.03.2022 as CHQ Quota for 2 new Life Members.

Varanasi Branch (Uttar Pradesh State) deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs.600/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 28.03.2022 as CHQ Quota for 3 new Life Members.

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