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Life starts after retirement All India BSNL Retired Executives' Association

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Editorial

ANNOYANCES OF GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL SYSTEMS

The moment we retired from service, all our problems connected with our service went into oblivion, except for those unfortunate pensioners who were facing disciplinary or judicial cases. No longer need to worry about targets, assignments, timely completion of tasks, ever haunting APAR, promotions and postings and most of all transfers – both to desired place and avoiding unwanted ones. After retirement, life starts looking calm, comfortable, guiet and peaceful, although we continue to do chores in home and outside which we do at our chosen time and slower pace. That does not mean that we do not have problems at all. Now and then we face problems related to pension, healthcare schemes, income tax, savings and submission of yearly certificates. A few pensioners continue to struggle to get regular pensionary benefits as a fallout of some disciplinary/judicial proceedings and in most cases even after exoneration/acquittal in the cases. And there are overactive CCAs who are looking for issues in pay fixation done so many years before retirement in order to refuse its benefit in pension.

In order to listen to and resolve all grievances related to pension and even medical facilities, the Pensioners' Welfare Department, introduced Centralised **Pensioner Grievance Redress and Monitoring** system (CPENGRAMS), an online webenabled system. A grievance can be registered by the pensioner or any other person on behalf of pensioner. Similarly

another online platform viz. Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is available to the citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to the public authorities on any subject related to service delivery. Above all there is a facility to 'write to the Prime Minister' on any grievance, available to every citizen.

Anyone who has hand-on experience in lodging grievance through these systems will be by now aware that these mechanisms have been reduced to just automated post offices, mostly forwarding the grievances to the wrong authority who is in no way connected to the grievance. The authority thus receiving grievances not related to him are in compulsion to close the case as there is no provision for him to return or to forward the grievance to the appropriate authority. While some close the case stating that the matter is not of their concern, some give amazingly irritating responses and even advise us that we are not supposed to lodge the grievance. Even when the matter goes to the appropriate authority, most of the time it is closed with a one-line irrelevant reply calling it 'union matter' or 'court matter' or 'vigilance matter'. One cannot help feeling annoyed, frustrated and disgusted on seeing the reply. Of course, there are a few cases which are resolved depending upon the empathy of the person sitting in the position. There is provision of Feedback and Appeal but no one sees or responds to Feedback and the Appeal is mostly closed with a single line

confirming the reply by sub-appellate authority.

Both the systems bear the name 'Monitoring', but there is absolutely no such monitoring by anyone, although we have time and again written to DoP&PW pointing out to the futility of its efforts. As if to add insult to injury, whenever a grievance is closed, we start receiving calls from a group of landline numbers which are always shown as 'Spam' or 'Fraud' by Truecaller App, asking for our feedback on the disposal but never minding to listen to us. If we avoid taking such calls, we are bombarded with tens and hundreds of such calls from different numbers even till late night.

But all these have not deterred AIBSNLREA from finding ways to effectively utilising the system for redressal of common as well as individual grievances of its members. In the course of past three years, despite facing all the above said issues, AIBSNLREA has modified its approach to get the attention of the concerned authorities for resolution of the issues - by repeatedly registering the grievance, carefully wording the text for online input, not using the word 'BSNL' anywhere while registering grievances related to DoT and other departments, prominently mentioning the designation of authority who has to resolve the issue and only the subject of our letter, registering the same issue with different but concerned authorities and lodging appeal whenever required. We also find that even though our grievances are closed with improper and irrelevant replies, the issues raised by us are still being taken note of, considered and settled but with some delay. To cite an

example, on the matter of discrimination against those who retired from July 2017 to April 2018, DoT had always been avoiding a direct reply but still had to settle the issue due the genuineness and legitimacy of our arguments.

Pension Adalat was introduced decades back as a tool for prompt and quick redressal of pensioner's grievances. But through years it has lost its shine, with emphasis changing from redressal of the grievance to replying to the representation. Recently there is a tendency towards warding off pensioners' associations in the name of guidelines, even in respect of illiterate pensioners.

Migration to SAMPANN remains as another issue disturbing the peace of pensioners, with defective data, including mobile number in some cases, uploaded in SAMPANN, repeat recovery of TDS although recovered earlier by the bank and refusal to refund the admitted excess recovery. Online grievance redressal via SAMPANN and submission of grievances through email have lost utility since the infrastructure under CCAs is reportedly buckling under enormous workload.

In short, it is not easy for an individual pensioner to get his grievance resolved, though so many mechanisms have been devised and are in vogue. AIBSNLREA has repeatedly taken up with DoP&PW about the shortcomings in these systems and based on our suggestions, some improvements have been made. AIBSNLREA will continue its efforts to bring in more changes to make these systems meaningful without annoying the pensioner.

IDA RATES DUE FROM 01.04.2023

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for the months December 2022, January and February 2023, the revised IDA rate due w.e.f.

01.04.2023 is 202.3%% [increase by 1.1%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and 410.3%% [increase by 1.9%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.



Important Developments of the Month

WRONG DEDUCTION OF TDS WITHOUT ACTUAL PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIM IN RAJASTHAN CIRCLE DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY BSNL CO TO THE CIRCLES: Following a communication to AIBSNLREA from BSNL CO that "The matter will be discussed with the union within 15 days and appropriate action will be taken after the

discussion", in all such cases of wrong recovery of TDS before actual payment in Rajasthan Circle, payment of medical claims has been made today, as reported by our Rajasthan State body.

VIRTUAL MEETING OF AIBSNLREA CHQ OFFICE BEARERS HELD:

A virtual meeting of CHQ Office bearers of AIBSNLREA was held on 30.03.2023 evening. Shri V.Chinnapappiah, CHQ President presided over the meeting. Activities of CHQ since the last meeting in February 2023 and action taken by the individual office bearers on the decisions taken in the last meeting were discussed threadbare. All the CHQ office bearers briefed the meeting about the progress in the specific assignments given to them on the organisational front. GS appreciated the determination shown by all the office bearers which has brought good results. All the office bearers assured to continue the efforts. GS informed that as per the decision taken in the last meeting, Branches were requested to send specific cases of discrepancies and shortcomings in functioning of CGHS as experienced by Branch members. All such issues received from the Branches have been duly taken up with CGHS Directorate. Recently received issues and any more issues related to CGHS received in the future will also be duly taken up and pursued for resolution. There were interruptions in video streaming although audio was clear throughout the meeting. In view of the slow internet at the end of the month probably due to exhaustion of the data limit, which caused disturbances in video, it was decided to hold the Virtual Meetings in the first week of every month.

NON-REGULARISATION OF THE SUSPENSION PERIOD DESPITE ACQUITTAL IN A CBI CASE, IN ADDITION TO NON-PAYMENT OF GRATUITY, COMMUTATION OF PENSION AND NON-SETTLEMENT OF REGULAR PENSION CASE OF SHRI H S SUTARIA, RETD JTO, GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE, BSNL:

AGS Shri V P Arya met the concerned official in DoT on 27.03.2023 to inform that the ACB Gujarat has sent the Status Report of the Appeal as required by DoT. He was then apprised of the DoT's efforts, by contacting the Gujarat Government Advocate, which resulted in receipt of status report from ACB Gujarat. The file has been put up to Legal Advisor. AGS requested to expedite the process since not a single hearing had taken place after 2011, in the appeal filed by ACB Gujarat and the pensioner has been left to suffer excessively. It was agreed that as soon as the file is received from Legal Advisor, it will be putup to DoT Vigilance for a decision.

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES A MOBILE APP NAMELY 'AIS FOR TAXPAYER':

Income Tax department has launched a mobile App viz. 'AIS for Taxpayer', available on Google Play & Apple Store, which provides information related to TDS/TCS, interest, dividends, share transaction, tax payments, Income Tax refunds etc. To access the mobile app, the taxpayer needs to register on the app by providing PAN number, authenticate with OTP sent on mobile number & email registered on the efiling portal. <u>View the Press Release</u>



DELEGATION OF AIBSNLREA UTTAR PRADESH STATE BODY MEETS DEFENCE MINISTER:

A delegation of AIBSNLREA Uttar Pradesh State comprising S/Shri Ambika Singh, V.P.Singh, A.K Sharma, C.L.Sharma and Radheyshyam led by Shri R S Arora, State Secretary met Shri Rajnath Singh, Honourable Defence Minister in Lucknow on 19.03.2023 and submitted a memorandum for revision of payscale of working BSNL Executives and consequent pension revision of retired BSNL Executives. Shri Ambika Singh, State Financial Secretary had arranged for the meeting. The delegation explained to the MoD the justifications for relaxing affordability clause for BSNL and requested him to impress upon the Minister of Communications the need to resolve the long pending pay revision which will lead to pension revision, giving relief to the BSNL pensioners. MoD was very receptive and directed his Personal Secretary to put up our submission for forwarding to MoC for due consideration. CHQ congratulates and appreciates the efforts taken by AIBSNLREA U.P. State and the excellent presentation of the issue. View the letter submitted by the AIBSNLREA U.P. delegation

AIBSNLREA PURSUES PENDING ISSUES WITH AUTHORITIES IN BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE:

AGSs AIBSNLREA, Shri V P Arya and Shri Rakesh Sethi visited BSNL Corporate Office on 03.03.2023 to follow up pending issues. GM (Pers), PGM (Estt) and Director (HR) were away for a lecture in ALTTC Ghaziabad. We met Sr GM (Taxation) and DGM (Pers) and pursued the issues. In respect of wrong deduction of TDS without actual payment of

medical claims of BSNL retired Executives of Rajasthan Circle, Sr GM (Taxation) said he was aware that instructions had been earlier issued to the Circles and will take up the matter with Rajasthan Circle. In respect of release of pensionary benefits of Shri B M Nyamati, we were informed that the Karnataka High Court had refused early hearing of the appeal and that there was some confusion about release of the pensionary benefits in case the appeal goes against the pensioner later. The matter will be further pursued with PGM (FP) citing release of pensionary benefits of some retirees of Karnataka circle when a CBI appeal is pending, after AIBSNLREA's efforts quoting a DoT letter. Regarding hodling of Review DPCs on the basis of revised seniority of TES Group B based on Supreme Court verdict, in respect of those who were promoted as DE during DoT period, there is said to be doubts about how to proceed with and the matter requires further discussions.



Issues taken up

28.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO GENERAL MANAGER (TAXATION) BSNL CO ON INCORRECTNESS OF THE CLARIFICATION ISSUED BY BSNL ON TAXABILITY OF REIMBURSEMENT OF CGHS CONTRIBUTION TO BSNL ABSORBED PENSIONERS AND REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF THE CLARIFICATION:

AIBSNLREA has now written to the General Manager (Txn) BSNL CO, pointing out that BSNL has been treating the reimbursement of CGHS contribution as 'Income' "in the absence of clarity on whether reimbursement to BSNL absorbed retired employees on account of CGHS subscription is an insurance premium or not" as per its letter dated 22.09.2021. BSNL should get the required clarity by visiting Income Tax India website Page https://incometaxindia.gov.in/Pages/tools/deduction-under-section-80d.aspx which has equated 'Payment for medical insurance premium (mode other than cash)' to 'contribution to CGHS' in the form meant for calculating deduction under section 80D. AIBSNLREA has reiterated that there is no rationale and justification in BSNL treating the reimbursement of onetime payment of subscription to CGHS in respect of BSNL absorbed IDA pensioner as taxable income and therefore has again requested that the said clarification be withdrawn immediately and the practice of showing the amount as 'income' may be stopped forthwith. View the letter

22.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DG CGHS SUGGESTING TO INCREASE THE FACILITY OF AYURVEDIC/HOMEOPATHIC/UNANI AND OTHER SUCH TRADITIONAL/HOLISTIC MEDICINE IN CGHS WELLNESS CENTRES:

AIBSNLREA has written to DG CGHS pointing out that people have become increasingly aware of the benefits of these traditional medicine and also Homeopathy which are believed to provide natural cure without side effects and suggesting to increase the facility of Ayurvedic/Homeopathic/Unani and other such traditional/holistic medicine in CGHS Wellness Centres, providing two specific suggestions. **View the letter**

21.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DG CGHS ON DISMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN ICHAPUR CGHS WELLNESS CENTRE, KOLKATA AND SUGGESTING IMPROVEMENT OF STAFF STRENGTH AND OPENING OF MORE WELLNESS CENTRES:

AIBSNLREA has written to DG CGHS on dismal state of affairs in Ichapur CGHS Wellness Centre, Kolkata and suggesting improvement of staff strength and opening of more Wellness Centres at Kalyani, Sodepur and Barrakpore. **View the letter**

17.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DG CGHS SUGGESTING SHIFTING OF AMBALA WELLNESS CENTRE TO A SPACIOUS, EASILY ACCESSIBLE PLACE:

AIBSNLREA has written to DG CGHS calling his attention that Ambala Wellness Centre is located at a difficult-to-reach location where the beneficiaries need to cross two railways subways which remain waterlogged for most of the time and that it does not have a separate injection room and dressing room. AIBSNLREA has requested him to get the earlier proposal of shifting it to a BSNL building which is newly constructed and conveniently located, re-examined. **View the letter**

16.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CMD BSNL REGARDING DISPLAY OF DEFAULT/SEIZURE NOTICE BY GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION IN CHENNAI BSNL EXCHANGES – DAMAGING THE REPUTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OWNED PSU – REQUEST INTERVENTION TO AVOID SUCH INSTANCES IN THE FUTURE:

AIBSNLREA has written to CMD BSNL conveying "the immense mental pain and humiliation felt by the BSNL Pensioners over the disheartening event of display of default/seizure notice by Greater Chennai Corporation on the main gates of three BSNL Telephone Exchanges two days back allegedly for non-payment of arrears of property tax dues. Having put in 30-40 years of service in DoT and then in BSNL, shedding their blood, sweat and tears for the growth and glory of the organisations, the BSNL pensioners are extremely shocked to hear about the news which shows BSNL in bad light and damages its reputation." AIBSNLREA has requested CMD BSNL to look into the matter personally and to cause some mechanism to be put in place, to avoid such situations in the future. **View the letter**

15.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DG CGHS SUBMITTING SUGGESTIONS FOR REDUCING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY CGHS BENEFICIARIES OF JODHPUR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN:

AIBSNLREA has written to DG CGHS drawing his attention towards untold difficulties faced by CGHS beneficiaries of Jodhpur District, Rajasthan along with suggestions for removing the difficulties faced by them in availing CGHS benefits, detailing the deficiencies and improvement required. **View the letter**

10.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DG CGHS SUGGESTING STRINGENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN MOA FOR EMPANELMENT OF HEALTH CARE ORGANISATION (HCO) UNDER CGHS TO PROTECT BENEFICIARIES FROM HARASSMENT BY PRIVATE HOSPITALS:

Pointing to numerous complaints against private empanelled hospitals regarding refusal of admission, denial of credit facility, non-honouring the permission letter issued by CMO incharge of CGHS Wellness Centres, denial of admission even in emergency on the plea of non-availability of beds, refusal for conducting investigations as advised by Government Specialist and misbehaviour by the treating doctor and that a few of these complaints had been considered and acted upon by the Government by imposing 15% PBG as Liquidated Damages on the erring hospitals, AIBSNLREA has written to DG CGHS that "Issuing a warning letter or imposing 15% PBG as Liquidated Damage which normally amounts to Rs.1,50,000/- or Rs.75,000/- will never have the effect of mending the erring hospitals. While there is pressing need for adding more empanelled hospitals, care needs to be taken to ensure that the hospitals do not harass the CGHS beneficiaries. Erring hospitals can be made to behave only

if stringent terms and conditions are included in the MOA, providing for foregoing of full PBG, additional penalty, termination of MOA and reporting every such case to the Human Rights Commission." **View the letter**

08.03.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL ON NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR EMERGENCY ADMISSION AND BYPASS SURGERY – CASE OF O N CHAUBEY, RETD DE (ENQUIRY) O/O CGMT UP EAST:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Director (HR) BSNL to the long pending grievance of Shri O N Chaubey, Retd DE (Enquiry) O/o CGMT UP East on Non-payment of indoor medical claim for emergency admission and heart surgery he had at Gurgaon, Haryana in December 2014, which had been rejected by CGMT UP East Circle and has requested Director (HR) to advise UP East Circle to get the claim reviewed and approved for payment, taking into account the emergency admission and treatment to save his life, the due intimation given by FAX and the financial burden on the pensioner. **View the letter**

03.03.2023: AIBSNLREA TAKES UP WITH SR.GENERAL MANAGER (TAXATION) BSNL CO THE ISSUE OF WRONG DEDUCTION OF TDS WITHOUT ACTUAL PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIM DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY BSNL CO TO THE CIRCLES:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Sr. General Manager (Taxation) to the fact that "After prolonged persuasion from this Association, BSNL vide its letter No.BSNLCO-TAXN/11(15)/4/2021-Taxation/4315 dated 26.08.2021 addressed to GS AIBSNLREA had intimated 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. But to our shock, Rajasthan Circle has recently deducted TDS without making actual payment of medical claims which show in the Form 26AS of the retirees." AIBSNLREA has therefore requested him to look into the issue and cause remedial action by stopping such wrong recovery immediately by Rajasthan Circle and by issuing a general instruction to all the Circles in this regard. **View the letter**



GOVERNMEND/BSND ORDERS & Dedders

17.03.2023: MOH&FW ISSUES MODIFIED GUIDELINES ON SETTING UP OF LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR ALL CGHS DISPENSARIES:

MoH&FW vide its F.No.S.11030/19/2023-EHS dated 17th March 2023 has issued revised guidelines for setting up of Grievance/Advisory Committees for all Health and Wellness Centres across the country and Zonal Advisory Committee (ZAC) at the level of Additional Director of the concerned Zone to facilitate seemless delivery of health care services and prompt redressal of grievances within CGHS System. **View the MoH&FW letter**



RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

31.03.2023: BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 03.03.2023 ON WRONG DEDUCTION OF TDS WITHOUT ACTUAL

PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIM DESPITE INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY BSNL CO TO THE CIRCLES: In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 03.03.2023 addressed to General Manager (Txn) BSNL CO drawing his attention to a grievance that Rajasthan Circle has recently deducted TDS without making actual payment of medical claims which show in the Form 26AS of the retirees, which is against the contents of BSNL CO letter dated 26.08.2021 addressed to GS AIBSNLREA. The grievance has been closed with a reply that "The matter will be taken with the union within 15 days". Separately an email has been received from Taxation (TDS) section of BSNL Corporate Office stating that "The matter will be discussed with the union within 15 days and appropriate action will be taken after the discussion." **_View the BSNL response**

29.03.2023: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE DG CGHS SUGGESTING SHIFTING OF AMBALA WELLNESS CENTRE TO A SPACIOUS, EASILY ACCESSIBLE PLACE:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter addressed to the DG CGHS requesting to examine the proposal for shifting Ambala Wellness Centre to a spacious, easily accessible location, particularly to a BSNL building newly constructed and conveniently located or some other building, in view of the present wellness centre is difficult to reach, requiring to cross two railways subways which remain waterlogged for most of the time, AD CGHS Chandigarh has replied that "The matter was discussed with the pensioners association and they have asked to continue the CGHS working from the same building and the building has been recently renovated also. CGHS Building will be shifted once a suitable spacious alternative option is made available." View the CGHS response

25.03.2023: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA SUBMITTING AIC RESOLUTION ON INADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF AYURVEDIC AND HOMEOPATHY MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE WELLNESS CENTRES UNDER CGHS:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter addressed to the Prime Minister of India submitting Inadequate availability of Ayurvedic and Homeopathy medical facilities in the wellness centres under CGHS, CGHS has now replied that "As far as the expansion of wellness centres of Ayurveda & Homeopathy in CGHS is concerned, you are informed that in the year 2021 there were 30 Ayurvedic Wellness Centres & 32 Homoeopathic wellness centres. You would be happy to know that the number of Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic wellness centres has been increased to 39 & 47 respectively till date. Further opening of new CGHS Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic Units is under process." **View the CGHS response**

02.03.2023: DOT CLOSES THE APPEAL AGAINST DISPOSAL OF GRIEVANCE OF SHRI A K DUBEY:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter addressed to Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW on the issue of regularization of the period of interruption in excess of joining time, due to the training and regular appointment being at different stations, DoT had 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 had been registered by AIBSNLREA seeking how and by whom the case has been resolved. Now DoT has closed the appeal stating that 'Appropriately replied. Copy attached,' attaching an earlier letter from AGM (HR) to AGM (Legal) both under CGMT UP West Circle. **View the attached letter**

01.03.2023: PGM LUCKNOW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL REGARDING NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR TREATMENT OF CHRONIC ILLNESS – SPOUSE OF SHRI AMBIKA SINGH, RETD CAO, O/O PGM TD, LUCKNOW: In response to AIBSNLREA letter addressed to the Director (HR) BSNL, requesting him to advise UP East Circle to process and pay the pending bills at the earliest, so as to give relief to the exhausted pensioner, PGM Lucknow has now replied that "All the bills of retiree which were as per rules have already ben paid and no medical limit pending unutilized for payment as per his medical outdoor limit eligibility. If any bills is left for payment, detailed information of the same is required. As far as extension of outdoor limit is concerned, the matter is not related to this section." View the PGM Lucknow response



BRANCHES IN ACTION

20.03.2023: AIBSNLREA BALLIA BRANCH (UP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY

MEETING:

AIBSNLREA BALLIA Branch conducted its GB meeting on 19/03/2023 under the Presidentship of Shri D.S.Rai. Some issues were discussed which included unjustified requirement for submission of Medical option forms every year. The following new office bearers have been elected unanimously.

1.President: Shri A.K.Singh 9044064699

2.Branch Secretary: Shri P. N.Chaudhari 9451402929

3. Financial Secretary: Shri R. Y. Sharma 9415248973

4.Org.Secretary: Shri H.R.Chaurasia 9415243639

5. Auditor: Shri P.S. Srivastav 9415244451

Executive members: 1.Shri S.Khan; 2.Shri S.N.Singh; 3.Shri K.N.Ram; 4.Shri R.S.Gupta; 5.Shri S.K.Sinha

20.03.2023: DELEGATION OF AIBSNLREA UTTAR PRADESH STATE BODY MEETS DEFENCE MINISTER:

A delegation of AIBSNLREA Uttar Pradesh State comprising S/Shri Ambika Singh, V.P.Singh, A.K Sharma, C.L.Sharma and Radheyshyam led by Shri R S Arora, State Secretary met Shri Rajnath Singh, Honourable Defence Minister in Lucknow on 19.03.2023 and submitted a memorandum for revision of payscale of working BSNL Executives and consequent pension revision of retired BSNL Executives. Shri Ambika Singh, State Financial Secretary had arranged for the meeting. The delegation explained to the MoD the justifications for relaxing affordability clause for BSNL and requested him to impress upon the Minister of Communications the need to resolve the long pending pay revision which will lead to pension revision, giving relief to the BSNL pensioners. MoD was very receptive and directed his Personal Secretary to put up our submission for forwarding to MoC for due consideration. CHQ congratulates and appreciates the efforts taken by AIBSNLREA U.P. State and the

excellent presentation of the issue. View the letter submitted by the AIBSNLREA U.P. delegation

17.03.2023: AIBSNLREA EAST GODAVARI BRANCH HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

AIBSNLREA EAST Godavari Branch held its GB Meeting at Hotel RL Grand, Kakinada on 14.03.2023 under the Presidentship of Sri GV Rama Krishna, Branch President. The meeting started at 10.30 hours with prayer. Sri GV Rama Krishna, Branch president, Sri G.S.V.S.S.Vara Prasad, Branch Secretary, Shri M Venkateswara Rao, CHQ Vice President and Finance Secretary Sri KBS Naidu were on the dais. The meeting paid homage to all the departed members by observing two minutes silence. President welcomed all the 90 members who attended the meeting. He briefed the house regrding unique feature of our District branch as its members were hailing from AP, Telangana States, MTNL, STR and Civil wings. The present strength of the branch raised to 329 with joining of nine new members during 25.06.2022 to 14.03.2023 and 4 members unfortunately passed away during this period. He also briefed the house regarding the election of new CHQ office bearers during 3rd All India Conference at Kolkata during January 2023. Sri M Venkateswara Rao, newly elected Vice President, CHQ in his maiden speech elaborated his experiences in all the three AICs of our Association at Bhubaneshwar, Madurai and Kolkata and election process taken place and his election as Vice President. Secretary Shri GSVSS Varaprasad praised the Services of Comrade Basu and shared the Memorable moments with him and wished him long life. He also informed the house about the new office bearers elected to CHQ. View the Photos

03.03.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA LUCKNOW BRANCH (UP STATE) HELD:

The General Body meeting of Lucknow Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 02-03-2023 in Door Sanchar Sadan Conference Hall at Laplace Lucknow under the Chairmanship of Shri B L Mishra Branch President. 30 members attended the meeting. Two were new members. Since the last meeting & biennial Conference on 28-12-2022, there has been increase of 12 members. The meeting appreciated that this was possible due to the dynamic leadership of Shri V P Singh. The resolutions passed by All India Conference at Kolkata were read by Shri S P Singh former Branch Secretary who had attended the AIC as delegate. The stand of the CHQ on Pension Revision was appreciated by the general body. Discussions were held on other resolutions also. Organising Secretary Shri Radhe Shyam briefed on our branch organisation activities with regard to local issues and other matters. State Secretary Shri R S Arora present in the meeting put up his opinion on different issues taken up in AIC Kolkata. He also spoke about a draft representation to be submitted to Honorable Defence Minister and MP from Lucknow Shri Raj Nath Singh to seek the approval of Cabinet for relaxing Affordability Clause as advised by DPE in matter of Pay Revision of BSNL Executives. Shri A K Sharma Asst Branch Secretary spoke about CGHS issues being faced by the members. Branch Secretary Shri V.P. Singh summarised the steps taken by the Branch for payment of Medical bills in Lucknow District. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Branch President.

03.03.2023: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA AMRAVATI BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HELD:

The 2nd Conference of AIBSNLREA Amravati Branch was held on Monday, the 20th February 2023 at Hotel Grace Inn, near Rajapeeth Police station Amravati, under the Chairmanship of Shri R. W. Tidake President of the Branch. The Conference was attended by 39 members along with Shri V.G. Dakhode, State Secretary, Maharashtra Circle. On the Day of Conference, 2 new

members have joined the Association. [View Maharashtra State page of State News for full report]



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY & MARCH 2023

Thanjavur/Kumbakonam Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees One Thousand only (Rs.1000/-) towards CHQ quota for 5 new members on 13.02.2023.

Shri Vijaikumar Basalingappa has deposited Rupees One Thousand Eight Hundred only (Rs.1800/-) on 03.03.2023 [details not available].

Amravati Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees Four Hundred only (Rs.400/-) towards CHQ quota for 2 new members on 04.03.2023.

Lucknow Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred only (Rs.2400/-) towards CHQ quota for 12 new members on 04.03.2023.

Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees One Thousand Two Hundred only (Rs.1200/-) towards CHQ quota for 6 new members on 08.03.2023.

Shri Piyush Bansal has deposited Rupees Five Hundred and Fifty only (Rs.550/-) on 11.03.2023 [details not available].

Prayagraj Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Two Hundred only (Rs.200/-) on 15.03.2023.

Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees Six Hundred only (Rs.600/-) towards CHQ quota for 3 new members on 19.03.2023.

Ballia Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Three Hundred only (Rs.300/-) towards CHQ quota for 1 new member on 20.03.2023.

Pune Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty only (Rs.1950/-) towards CHQ quota for 13 new members on 20.03.2023 [Rs.650/- more need to be deposited].

Patiala Branch (Punjab State) has deposited Rupees One Thousand Two Hundred only (Rs.1200/-) towards CHQ quota for 6 new members on 22.03.2023.

Varanasi Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Two Hundred only (Rs.200/-) towards CHQ quota for 1 new member on 22.03.2023.

East Godavari Branch (AP State) has deposited Rupees Four Hundred only (Rs.400/-) towards CHQ quota for 2 new members on 29.03.2023.

Shri Ramnath Gupta, Muzaffarpur has deposited Rupees One Thousand only (Rs.1000/-) towards CHQ quota for 5 new members on 31.03.2023.

Ghaziabad Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees One Thousand only (Rs.1000/-) towards CHQ quota for 5 new members on 31.03.2023.

Lucknow Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Four Hundred only (Rs.400/-) towards CHQ quota for 2 new members on 31.03.2023.

Lucknow Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees Two Hundred only (Rs.200/-) towards CHQ quota for 1 new member on 31.03.2023.

[All the above deposits have been received in the SB Account of CHQ with Canara Bank]

KIND ATTENTION BRANCH/STATE SECRETARIES

The 3rd All India Conference held at Kolkata unanimously approved a Constitutional amendment increasing the Life-time subscription from Rs.500 plus Rs.50 admission fee to Rs.1000 plus Rs.100 admission fee.

The subscription will be shared by CHQ, State and Branch @ 30%, 30% and 40% respectively. Rs.100 admission fee will be retained by the Branch.

The new rate of subscription will take ffect from 01.04.2023.

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