



Editorial

LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE...

Every year before the Union Budget, expectations run high, with stakeholders across various sectors eagerly awaiting some favourable announcements. Common citizens hope for tax benefits and relief from the burden of rising prices. Naturally, Senior Citizens expect special consideration in basic exemption limit, tax slabs, improvements in Senior Citizen Savings Schemes, exemption from income tax for medical benefits availed from ex-employer etc.

Similarly, people expect some favourable announcements as per their own wish and requirement, before announcement of general elections, on the understanding that announcements cannot be made after notification of elections with the code of conduct kicking in. We are very much aware that BSNL employees were desperately hoping that their pay/wage revision would be announced just before elections. The sudden revival of wage negotiations between BSNL Management and the recognized unions, gave room for speculations, expectations and optimism and everything ended as a pipe dream.

It is not that the pensioners did not have any expectations. Those who retired a day prior to the date their annual increment became due were expecting a DoP&T order to be issued before the elections are announced, allowing the benefit of Supreme Court judgements, to

all the similarly placed pensioners, as DoP&T has been talking of an ongoing consultation process for a long time. Ultimately, they feel let down. Some pensioners hoped for an announcement regarding restoration of concession to Senior Citizens by the Railways, which remains wishful thinking. And some overenthusiastic pensioners even wanted that pensioners should be completely exempted from paying income tax, inspired by several WhatsApp messages, ignoring the fact that no Government will agree to this as pensioners continue to contribute substantially to the Government's income by paying Income Tax.

Although these expectations have gone unfulfilled, some real issues faced by the pensioners need resolution sooner than later. AIBSNLREA was the first pensioner association to take up the matter of grant of notional increment for pensionary benefits for those who retired a day prior to their date of increment, immediately after the Tamilnadu Government granted this benefit to its employees vide a Gazette Notification on 31.12.2014. Since then, there have been number of CAT judgments favouring grant of notional increment, many High Courts confirming these judgements and the Supreme Court dismissing the appeal by the Government in several cases. The Delhi High Court even ordered "*passing of necessary orders not only in respect of the*

petitioners but also in respect of all similarly situated persons". Despite several representations from us and other organisations, amid continuing court cases being filed every other day by affected pensioners, DoP&T is still dragging its leg, citing 'consultation process'. In fact, AIBSNLREA CHQ has been receiving calls now and then from affected pensioners belonging to different central government departments and undertakings, enquiring about the status of the issue, which shows the significance of the matter.

The Government is yet to take a decision on the recommendation made by a Departmental Related Parliamentary Standing Committee in its Report 110 regarding enhancement of FMA Rs.1000/- p.m to Rs.3000/- p.m, more than 2 years after submission of the recommendation. As usual, the matter is pending with the Department of Expenditure.

Another recommendation of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee in the same Report, was to grant additional quantum of Pension to the Pensioners/family pensioners @ 5%, 10% and 15% on attaining the age of 65 years, 70 years and 75 years respectively. Immediately the DOP&PW called for details of age-wise number of pensioners, amount of pension paid in December 2021 with DR and without DR, for working out the financial implications. Referring to this DOP&PW letter, DoT requested the CGCA, New Delhi to provide the information in respect of telecom pensioners by 07.02.2022. The matter was also discussed in the 32nd Meeting of SCOVA and as per the official minutes of the meeting held in May 2022 "On the issue of Enhancement of Additional Pension on

attaining age of 65 years, 70 years and 75 years, JS (Pension), DOPPW has informed that the proposal is under consideration in consultation with DoE and DOEA on the aspects of funds availability in the Budget." This had raised high expectations among the pensioners, because availability of funds in the Budget could not be a major hurdle and funds could be allotted anytime.

But belying all expectations, the Department of Expenditure vide their ID Note dated 01.06.2022 had stated that *"the proposal has been examined in that Department and in line with the views offered by Budget Division of DEA considering the fiscal perspective of the Govt., the proposal is not agreed to."* The same Parliamentary Committee in its Report 120, shelved the issue observing that *"The Committee takes note of the reply and do not wish to pursue this matter for now in wake of the reply of the Department."* This, however, leaves space for taking up the issue again in the future.

On this matter, it is important to note that the Government of Himachal Pradesh has been already granting additional pension in the name of pension allowance @5%, 10% and 15% on basic pension/family pension to the State Government pensioners /family pensioners, including AIS pensioners/family pensioners on attaining the age of 65 years, 70 years and 75 years respectively, since the year 2014.

Another important issue relates to restoration of commuted portion of pension in less than 15 years. Orders were issued in 1983, implementing a Supreme Court judgement to restore commuted pension in 15 years, based on calculations which showed that the

commuted amount was recovered in 12 to 13 years. Although the V CPC had recommended restoration in 12 years, the Government did not accept it. AIBSNLREA took up the matter with the Prime Minister requesting Restoration of Commuted Value of Pension after 7 years from the date of commutation in view of the fact that the interests on loans given by the banks have drastically come down and commuted value of pension gets recovered fully within 7 years. In the Standing Committee meeting of National Council (JCM) the demand for restoration of commuted portion of pension after 12 years was raised and the Official side stated that *"The matter has been referred to Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure on 03.10.2022."* In the recent meeting of the Standing Committee of JCM held in December 2023, the Official side expressed its *"desire that the DOP&PW and the Department of Expenditure should hold a meeting with Staff Side and if the issue is not resolved then the same can be raised in the main*

meeting of the National Council – JCM". While the Kerala Government has been restoring the commuted portion in 12 years, Gujarat Government has issued orders for restoring in 13 years. Some other State Governments also are reported to have been restoring the commuted amount in less than 15 years.

AIBSNLREA is determined to confront these real issues of the pensioners – Notional increment for pensionary benefits to those who had retired a day prior to the date their annual increment became due, Increase in FMA from Rs.1000 to Rs.3000 per month, Grant of additional quantum of pension on attaining the age of 60, 65 and 70 years @ 5%, 10% and 15% respectively, and restoration of commuted amount in less than 15 years - once the new members of Lok Sabha take oath, by following them up from their present status, as we believe that all these issues are genuine, justified and achievable. ☹



Important Developments of the Month



✚ DoP&PW had organised a virtual interactive meeting of Pensioners Associations registered under Pensioners Portal with Secretary (Pension) at short notice, on 21.03.2024. Smt.Ramanjit Kaur, Sr. Consultant, DoP&PW welcomed the around 38 participants. Shri Dhrubajyoti Sengupta, who has taken charge recently as Joint Secretary (PW) made a brief speech on the purpose of the meeting, to discuss especially issues related to CGHS and SCOVA. He assured that in the future such interactions will be regularly held on specified dates. He said that a 100 days programme for DLC and a 5 year plan are on the anvil. He requested suggestions for improvement in the format of Pension Adalats. He informed the participants that DoP&PW is on the job for simplifying the pension rules with specific reference to Family Pension and Rule 37 and integrating different pension rules. It will be a process-oriented approach rather than customer-oriented approach, he said. He wanted the pensioners associations to create awareness about the Anubhav Awards, write-up for which will be closed for this year on 31st March 2024. He invited suggestions to be sent to his email regarding revamping of Pensioners Portal. Shri Ravikiran Ubale, who has recently joined as Director (PW) spoke briefly. Dr. Pramod from CGHS was present in the meeting.

Secretary (Pension) Shri V.Srinivas then joined the virtual meeting and expressed gratitude towards the pensioners associations for being extended arm of DoP&PW. A handful of associations then presented their views on CGHS, SCOVA, DLC and integration of Railway Pension Rules with CCS Pension Rules. On the issue of increasing the number of wellness Centres, Secretary (Pension) opined that shortage of Doctors and other staff members was the major hurdle for increasing the wellness centres.

GS AIBSNLREA raised two issues pertaining to CGHS viz. Simplification of the Referral system under CGHS through online – as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare and issue of guidelines for providing some grace period between surrender of BSNL MRS card and obtaining CGHS card and allowing reimbursement of expenditure under CGHS for indoor treatment during the said grace period as per the existing guidelines for Central Government employees. Secretary (Pension) took note of these and wanted us to make a reference through his email so that they can be taken up with CGHS Directorate. He said next SCOVA meeting will be held after the elections and formation of Government.

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✚ The virtual meeting of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 01.03.2024 under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, President. President welcomed all the participants. GS then read out a condolence message to CHQ Joint Secretary Shri R.S.Sandhu, over the untimely demise of his wife Smt. Devinder Kaur Sandhu on 25.02.2024. Then a detailed review, of the action taken on the previous meeting's decision in respect of holding of meetings by the Branches which had not held any meeting during the last year, was done. Progress made on the efforts by the office bearers was appreciated. Specific targets were fixed

for March 2024. President expressed happiness over the joint functioning of the CHQ office bearers, where everyone took responsibility on organisational matters, without restricting themselves to the functions attributed to their posts. Developments, regarding our court case on 78.2% fitment benefit, in BSNL with the scheduled wage revision committee meeting on 5th March 2024, were discussed. Meeting ended with the President thanking the office bearers for the lively interaction.

Issues taken up



22.03.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY, DOT REGARDING GRANT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES FOR THE STAFF BELONGING TO THE ORGANISED ACCOUNTS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS AND REQUESTING HIM TO TAKE UP WITH DOE FOR ISSUE OF COMMON ORDER ALLOWING THE BENEFIT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES ON ACTUAL BASIS W.E.F. 1.1.1996:

Following the PCAT order dated 21st March 2023 that "all the applicants are held to be entitled to the benefit of replacement/upgraded scale of pay on actual basis w.e.f. 01.01.1996 as against 19.02.2003. Pursuant to this they are also held to be entitled to the payment of arrears which would have accrued in their favour from this date" and further observation that "Before parting we would also express a hope that the competent authority shall on its own extend the benefit of upgraded pay scales to all eligible employees w.e.r.01.01.1996 irrespective of the fact whether they have approached an appropriate judicial forum for the same or not, so that unnecessary litigation is avoided", AIBSNLREA had written a letter to DoE on 11.05.2023 requesting issue of a common order. But DoE had forwarded our letter to DoT for necessary action since DoE does not consider representation received directly. Recently Delhi High Court has dismissed the appeal by Union of India against the PCAT order dated 21.03.2023. AIBSNLREA has therefore requested Secretary, DoT to take up the matter with Department of Expenditure for issue of common orders extending the actual benefit of upgraded scale of pay to all the organised accounts cadres w.e.f. 01.01.1996 itself, with consequent arrears, so that the affected employees, now mostly retired, are not forced into an arduous task of seeking legal remedy individually. [View the letter](#)

14.03.2024: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO THE DG CGHS REGARDING EXTENSION OF CGHS TO UDAIPUR CITY:

Drawing attention to DG CGHS Office order dated 10.01.2024, directing the Additional Directors of 10 cities to visit 21 specified locations in their respective jurisdiction and ascertain the feasibility of opening CGHS Wellness Centres at these locations and provide data regarding the likely number of beneficiaries (both serving and Pensioners) in these cities including nearby areas and availability of suitable accommodation, AIBSNLREA has again taken up the issue with DG CGHS, now requesting her to cause inclusion of Udaipur City for visit by AD, CGHS, Jaipur to ascertain the feasibility of opening Wellness Centre and thereby extending CGHS to Udaipur City. [View the letter](#)

11.03.2024: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO THE DIRECTOR (HR) REGARDING RELEASE OF FINAL RETIREMENT ORDERS FOR SHRI B M NYAMATI, CONSEQUENT TO DISMISSAL OF SLP FILED BY BSNL AGAINST QUASHING OF CHARGE SHEET BY CAT BANGALORE AND SUBSEQUENT CONFIRMATION OF CAT ORDER BY KARNATAKA HIGH COURT:

BSNL had been unduly harassing the pensioner who was issued a charge sheet a day before his retirement under BSNL VRS2019. CAT Bangalore had issued orders quashing the chargesheet. On appeal by BSNL, Karnataka High Court heard the case and confirmed the orders of CAT Bangalore. Unexpectedly, BSNL filed SLP in Supreme Court against the orders of Karnataka High Court. The Supreme Court has now dismissed the SLP at the admission stage. AIBSNLREA has written to the Director (HR) BSNL earnestly requesting him to ensure early issue of vigilance clearance for final retirement orders to Shri B M Nyamati, who has been denied his retiral benefits and ex-gratia for more than 4 years now. [View the letter](#)

04.03.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CGCA, DOT, REGARDING CONTINUING WOES OF BSNL PENSIONERS SERVED BY CCA, MAHARASHTRA & GOA – STOPPAGE OF PENSION OF SHRI B.S.RAJPUT, RETD DE BHOPAL SINCE DECEMBER 2023:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of CGCA, DoT to the Continuing woes of BSNL pensioners served by CCA, Maharashtra & Goa making a specific reference to stoppage of pension of Shri B.S.Rajput, Retd DE Bhopal since December 2023 and has requested action as appropriate so that the office of CCA Maharashtra & Goa is put in order, the apathy of the officials towards grievances of the pensioners is halted forthwith and the pension of Shri B.S.Rajput, Retd DE, Bhopal is paid immediately. [View the letter](#)

01.03.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CGMT, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE REQUESTING HIM TO RE-EXAMINE HIS UNTENABLE DECISION REGARDING PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON DELAYED PAYMENT OF GRATUITY IN RESPECT OF SHRI B.M. KOLKI, RETD SDE KOLHAPUR:

Responding to the response by Maharashtra Circle repeating the same contention that "the case was intricate with criminal charges and court orders as opposed to regular superannuation case and therefore interest on late payment of gratuity is denied", AIBSNLREA has now requested the CGMT Maharashtra Circle to re-examine the issue, citing sections from Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 and Supreme Court Judgment in Gangahanume Gowda v. Karnataka Agro Industries Corpn. Ltd., (2003) 3 SCC 40. [View the letter](#)

RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON



AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

29.03.2024: CGCA RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 16.02.2024 REGARDING ENORMOUS DELAY IN ISSUE OF IDA-CDA MAPPING CERTIFICATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECIDING MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION FOR AVAILING CGHS FACILITY BY BSNL ABSORBED PENSIONERS AND REQUESTING AUTOMATING THE PROCESS:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 16.02.2024 regarding enormous delay in issue of IDA-CDA mapping certificate for the purpose of deciding monthly contribution for availing CGHS facility by BSNL absorbed pensioners and requesting automating the process, CGCA has replied that "As per the reply received from the SAMPANN team, the suggestion regarding the mapping of IDA-CDA scales is under consideration in SAMPANN 2.0". [View CGCA reply](#)

21.03.2024: DOT FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 15.11.2023 REGARDING GRANT OF VIGILANCE CLEARANCE FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL IN RESPECT OF SHRI H S SUTARIA RETD JTO GUJARAT CIRCLE:

AIBSNLREA had submitted a letter to Member (S) DoT on 15.11.2023 on the issue, quoting two precedents and requesting issue of vigilance clearance for the purpose of absorption in BSNL. AGSs Shri V P Arya and Shri Rakesh Sethi had met Member (S) on 12.02.2024 and had requested consideration of his case as has been done in two other cases. DoT has now forwarded AIBSNLREA letter to DoT Vigilance for taking further action. [View DoT OM](#)

18.03.2024: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 30.01.2024 ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL REGARDING UNWARRANTED PENALISATION OF A PENSIONER DUE TO BSNL FAILING TO DEPOSIT THE TDS RECOVERED – CASE OF SHRI MADHUSUDHAN MUKHERJEE, RETD JTO, NSBTTC, KALYANI, KOLKATA:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter to Director (HR) dated 30.01.2024, following the Principal, ALTTC, Ghaziabad, vide his letter No.TTW/2043/STAFF MISC/GO dated 12.12.2023 writing to the AGM (HR), ALTTC, Ghaziabad, requesting to transfer the case to the present dealing officer for retired employee of CTD and requesting CTD authorities to collect the related files/folders/registers etc. prior to 01.07.2022, BSNL has now replied that "there is no information/data in TDS Cell CTD". [View BSNL response](#)

15.03.2024: DOT FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 26.10.2023 REGARDING HOLDING OF REVIEW DPC FOR PROMOTION TO DE GRADE BASED ON REVISED SENIORITY LISTS OF TES GROUP B IN RESPECT OF DE PROMOTIONS ORDERED BY DOT AND EXTENDING THE CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS, TO CMD BSNL FOR NECESSARY ACTION:

AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter on 26.10.2023 to Member (S), DoT on the above subject mentioning that BSNL appears to have taken a stand that such initiation of the process needs a green signal from DoT and requesting him to direct BSNL to initiate the process of holding review DPCs in respect of promotions ordered during DoT period. AGSs Shri V P Arya and Shri Rakesh Sethi had met Member (S) on 12.02.2024 and had elaborate discussions on the matter. DoT has now forwarded our letter to CMD BSNL for necessary action at his end. [View DoT letter](#)

13.03.2024: CCA MAHARASHTRA RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 04.03.2024 ADDRESSED TO THE CGCA DOT REGARDING STOPPAGE OF PENSION OF SHRI B.S.RAJPUT, RETD DE BHOPAL SINCE DECEMBER 2023:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 04.03.2024 addressed to the CGCA, DoT regarding Stoppage of pension of Shri B.S.Rajput, Retd DE Bhopal since December 2023, CCA Maharashtra has replied on 11.03.2024 that "the payment from December 2023 to

February 2024 has already been paid on 09.03.2024 in the supplementary bill." CHQ is thankful to AIBSNLREA Maharashtra State for its consistent efforts in resolving the issue. [View CCA Maharashtra response](#)

08.03.2024: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 29.01.2024 REGARDING FAILURE TO CATEGORIZE STAFF QUARTERS AS PREMIUM AND NON-PREMIUM BY WEST BENGAL CIRCLE RESULTING IN COLLECTION OF HIGHER RENT FROM BSNL PENSIONERS OCCUPYING QUARTERS:

Replying to AIBSNLREA letter dated 29.01.2024 regarding failure to categorize staff quarters as Premium and Non-premium by West Bengal Circle resulting in collection of higher rent from BSNL pensioners occupying quarters, BSNL has stated that "BA office has rented out department quarter / spaces as per CROP-2020 and as per direction issued from higher offices time to time. [View BSNL response](#)

02.03.2024: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 10.01.2024 ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL REQUESTING EARLY ISSUE OF FINAL RETIREMENT ORDERS IN VIEW OF DISMISSAL OF APPEAL BY HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA FILED BY BSNL AGAINST QUASHING OF CHARGESHEET BY HON'BLE CAT BANGALORE - CASE OF SHRI B M NYAMATI, RETD CAO, BANGALORE TELECOM DISTRICT:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 10.01.2024, BSNL has replied that "SLP is pending before the Honourable Supreme Court of India. The matter is subjudice." [View the BSNL response](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

31.03.2024: BI-ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA EAST VIDARBHA [NAGPUR] BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HELD:

AIBSNLREA East Vidarbha [Nagpur] Branch conducted its Bi-Annual General Body Meeting on 26.03.2024 at 1530hrs in Dr.B. Ambedkar Hall, Uroovela Colony, Wardha road, Nagpur. Secretary Shri N.R.Rachakondawar requested office bearers of Nagpur Branch, State office bearers from Nagpur and the Guest speaker Shri Sandeep Joshi from Sairam Healing Vibrionics System to take the dais. The occupants of the dais lit the lamp & garlanded the photos of Shri Jyotiba Phule, Dr.B. Ambedkar, Shri Samrat Ashok & Shri Sahu Maharaj. Secretary then welcomed all. Two minutes Silence was observed to pay homage to departed members Shri R.S.Kamde SDE, Shri V.G.Mohite DE, Shri R.R.Gadpal DE and Shri Shaikh Izrail DE. Vice President Shri Sandeep Joshi explained in detail about Sairam Healing Vibrionics System to all and then in the Q & A session Shri S.Joshi & Shri N.R.Rachakondawar answered the questions from members. A few members had consultations and received medicines. [View Maharashtra Section of State News Page for full report]

28.03.2024: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA FARIDABAD BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HELD:

GB meeting of AIBSNLREA Faridabad Branch was held on 23rd March at Gupha Restaurant sector 11 under the Chairmanship of Shri Naresh Bindal. Status of pension

revision, 78.2 fitment benefit from 1.1.2007 were discussed. After discussions the members present decided to request CHQ to form a combined Forum of Retirees' Associations for taking up common issues. Meeting was adjourned with thanks to the Chairperson. [View Photo](#)

28.03.2024: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA AMBALA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HELD:

A General Body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 23rd March 2024 at Clove 99 Restaurant. The meeting was presided over by Shri R C Kalia. The meeting was attended by 32 members including one new life member. At the outset, the President welcomed all the members and wished them all a very happy Holi festival. The meeting first condoled the death of founder member of the Branch Shri R C Khurana, wife of our Branch Cashier Shri Shyam Lal Makkar and mother of our member Shri Lalit Mohan by observing silence of two minutes. New life member Shri Jarnail Singh was introduced by Branch Secretary Shri S K Bindal. Senior member Shri H C Madan who completed 80 years of age was honoured by presenting with a shawl and bouquet. He also donated Rs. 1000 to the Branch. Afterwards Shri S K Aggarwal Organising Secretary (North) of AIBSNLREA CHQ briefed the members on the various issues including status of our pension revision as per 3rd PRC, local problems related to the working of CGHS wellness centre Ambala along with other points raised by the members. The meeting was followed by a stupendous lunch. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks. [View Photo](#)

27.03.2024: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA BALLIA BRANCH (UP STATE) HELD:

A General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Ballia branch was held on 24.03.2024 in the campus of Aryan GYM Ekwari Khas near Parsia Mor Ballia under the Presidentship of Shri SN Singh. President welcomed the members. All the present members congratulated the Branch Secretary Shri R Y Sharma for resolution of issues related to migration to sampann and ID card. Members were disappointed over DoT appealing against PCAT judgement on pension revision. Further, members raised the problem about non payment of without voucher medical claim timely. The meeting requested CHQ to take up the case to minimise the restoration of commutation period to 12 years. Branch Secretary requested the members to get new members enrolled. Meeting ended with Lunch. [View Photo](#)

26.03.2024: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA TRICHY BRANCH (TAMILNADU STATE) HELD:

AIBSNLREA Trichy Branch conducted its second AGB meeting in a very grand manner at Arun Hotel on Saturday the 23.03.2024. Shri S.Viswanathan, President presided over the meeting. Shri U.Ponnuchamy Branch Secretary welcomed all the members and briefed the activities of the Branch. BS Report and Financial report were passed unanimously. Shri.M.Balasubramanian State Finance secretary, Shri N.Viswanathan Asst. State Secretary, Shri R.Ramachandran Madurai Branch Secretary, Shri S.Arockiasamy Thanjavur BA Branch and Shri M.Manisekaran Erode Branch felicitated the Conference. Shri P.Manoharan and Shri T.Gunasekaran gave a short speech. General Secretary

Shri R.R.Balasubramanian in his special address emphasized the need for frequent meetings, social connections for healthy and long life and optimum utilisation of retired life. He then explained in detail why we should be proud to be members of AIBSNLREA. He covered all subjects which included BSNLMRS, CGHS, SAMPANN and related issues notional increment, additional quantum of pension after attaining the age of 65, 70 and 75 proposed by Parliamentary Committee which has been shelved, increase in FMA, use of CPGRAMS, CPENGRAMS and PMO Grievance portal. He explained the history of pension revision and various developments on the issue, including the DoT filing an appeal against PCAT orders. All the participants were very much impressed by our GS speech. Shri K.Vijayabaskar, DGM (A), Trichy felicitated the conference. Election of new office bearers was unanimous with Shri T.Gunasekaran, Shri V.Ganapathy subramanian and Shri K.Meyyalagan elected as President, Secretary and Finance Secretary respectively. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by the newly elected Branch Secretary Shri. V.Ganapathy Subramanian. Sumptuous lunch was served after the meeting. [View Photo](#)

24.03.2024: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA VADODARA BRANCH (GUJARAT STATE) HELD:

The Quarterly General Body Meeting of Vadodara Branch was held at 10.30 hrs. of 21-03-2024 at Hotel Utsav, Vadodara. 60 members attended the meeting. After Welcome Speech by the President Shri Modi K A, one minute silence was observed for departed members. S/Shri Sharma S L Secretary, Bhavsar B M President & Patel N P OS from Gujarat State branch, Ahmedabad attended and addressed the gathering. Shri Shah R T, Branch Secretary replied to the issues raised by members noted for further persuasion. The meeting ended with delicious Lunch. [View Photos](#)

20.03.2024: AIBSNLREA THANJAVUR BA BRANCH (TAMILNADU STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

AIBSNLREA Thanjavur BA Branch conducted its fourth GB meeting after the last AIC in a very grand manner at PLA Residency Hotel Kumbakonam on Sunday the 17.03.2024. Shri A.Mohan, Vice President presided over the meeting. Shri R.Srinivasan Branch Secretary welcomed all the members and briefed the activities of the branch. Shri M.S.Radhakrishnan, the State Secretary in his inaugural address highlighted the regular monthly CHQ office bearers meeting and topics covered by GS in the monthly e journals. He pointed out the issues settled and explained the status of pending pensioners issues. General Secretary Shri R.R.Balasubramanian congratulated the branch for holding of regular meetings. GS listed the virtues of AIBSNLREA which led to its registration by DoP&PW under Pensioners Portal. He spoke about the WhatsApp network created by AIBSNLREA to ensure that all the information reach the common member. He explained the issues related to BSNLMRS, CGHS and SAMPANN, the lethargy by concerned officials in disposing pensioners grievances, and AIBSNLREA successfully pursuing the grievances despite the shortcomings in the systems. He explained all the facts quoting different rules, orders and judgements related to Pension revision. The queries made by our members were also clarified by the GS. The front line leaders from Trichy offered their views and complimented the activities of Thanjavur BA Branch. Shri P.R.Sethuraman thanked all for making the meeting a memorable one.

Thirty three (33) members actively participated in the meeting and Shri R.Tamilselvan Retd DGM enrolled as a new member. The meeting was concluded with a delicious lunch. [View Photo](#)

20.03.2024: AIBSNLREA LUCKNOW BRANCH (UP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The general body meeting of Lucknow Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 18-3-2024 in the Conference Hall of Door Sanchar Sadan at Laplace under the Chairmanship of Shri B. L. Mishra Branch President. A total of 31 members attended the meeting. Shri Lalji Singh Yadav was enrolled as Life time member. After self introduction by the members two minutes silence was observed in memory of departed souls of those members who expired after the date of last meeting. Shri S. R. Upadhyay, Assistant Branch Secretary was unanimously co-opted as Branch Secretary in the vacancy following election of Shri V P Singh as State Secretary. Shri Radhey Shyam , Organising Secretary briefed the present status on Pension Revision, Notional Increment case of those members who retired on 30th June/ 31st December. Shri V. P. Singh briefed about local issues of non-payment of pending Medical bills in Lucknow Telephone District. Shri G. P. Srivastava and Shri Ashok Kumar Srivastava gave details about their pending Medical bills. After meeting, tea & snacks was served to the members.

19.03.2024: AIBSNLREA BHOPAL BRANCH (MP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY CUM MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER MEETING:

Bhopal Branch of AIBSNLREA held its GB cum monthly get-together meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri O P Sharma at Indian Coffee House, New Market, Bhopal. The meeting was attended by 51 members. Three new members s/Shri Manoj Kumar Shrivastava, shri M S Thakur, and shri M L Shrivastava joined association as Life Member. Shri O P Sharma, welcomed the new members with flowers. S/ Shri H.K.Saraf, Kamal Rai Shrivastava, V K Chopra, N K Sharma, B S Oswal, U S Ranade, V P Namdev, R.R.Tiwari, and Shri G N Shrivastava who have their Birthday this month were felicitated. Shri Kotwal raised issues related to referral from CGHS dispensary. After discussions it was decided to refer this issue to CHQ to take up this at all india level being general interest of the pensioners. Dr. H S Saxena, Branch Secretary discussed general activities of the association. Members were requested to supply information for printing of association telephone number directory. Shri Umesh Rathore arranged melody songs program and videography for meeting. Shri Kamal Rai Shrivastava, Shri Balpande, Shri Kotwal, Shri GP Vyas, Shri G N Shrivastava and shri Umesh Rathore presented melodious, heart touching songs enjoyed by all members. Light breakfast was served. One minute silence was observed as condolence for the departed soul of Mrs. Gadekar. Meeting ended with Vote of thanks by the Branch Secretary. [View Photos](#)

16.03.2024: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA JAUNPUR BRANCH (UP STATE) HELD:

AIBSNLREA Jaunpur Branch held its GB meeting on 15.03.2024 under the Presidentship of Shri Saheb Lal (Ex DE) at CTE Campus. Branch Secretary Shri A R Yadav briefed about the CGHS related issues, non-settlement of a few medical claims without voucher and

delay in issue of Pensioner ID card. CHQ Joint Secretary Shri R.K.Sinha apprised the participants through an audio call, of current status of different pensioners' issues including pension revision. Asst. State Secretary Shri L.R.Prasad spoke about State issues Shri S C maurya Asst Branch Secretary Varanasi shared his views. A nice home made Lunch was served to the members and the meeting ended with the President thanking the participants.

12.03.2024: ALWAR/BHARATPUR BRANCH (RAJASTHAN STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Alwar-Bharatpur Branch was held on 10.03.2024 under the Presidentship of Shri YC Sharma at the residence of Shri SP Jain. Branch Secretary Shri B L Gupta briefed about past activities carried out by Alwar branch. He extended sincere thanks to GS and whole CHQ body for taking up all the issues raised viz. payments of pending Medical Bills, deduction of income tax without payments of medical bills etc. by Alwar Branch immediately at appropriate level. Shri B L Gupta BS raised various pensioners issues including much delayed payment of medical bills and delay in issue of pensioners identity card. Shri S P Jain raised the issue of 199 post paid GSM plan approved by BSNL to retired employees in lieu of Rent Free Land Line copper connection, without SMS and data facilities. He said like GSM 199 post paid plan provided to General customers, 100 SMS per day and 25 GB data per month should be provided free. All the members were of the opinion that matter should be taken up by CHQ at top level to provide these facilities. All the members wanted that the meetings should be conducted on regular basis atleast quarterly. All the members agreed to make efforts to increase the membership of the branch. Light refreshment was served to members and the meeting ended with the President thanking the participants.

07.03.2024: VARANASI BRANCH (UP STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HOLDS ITS GENERAL BOADY MEETING:

The General body meeting of AIBSNLREA VARANASI Branch was held on 06.03.2024 under the Presidentship of Shri CK Singh at CTO Campus Varanasi. Two new Life time Members, Shri Keshar Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar joined as new members. One minute silence was observed as condolence for departed souls. Branch Secretary Shri Yad ali briefed out CGHS related issues. Newly opened wellness centre has no medicine facility and is being pursued. Issue of Identity card is heavily delayed. Some members informed that a new PPO number is not mentioned in this card. Shri R.K.Sinha Joint Secretary CHQ delivered special address on various pensioners issues, including on Pension Revisions matters. Asst. State Secretary Shri L.R.Prasad spoke about State issues. Light refreshment was served to members and the meeting ended with the President thanking the participants. [View the Photos](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

- 01. Shri Shyam Bahadur (Branch not specified)** deposited Rupees Three Hundred (Rs. 300/-) only on 29.02.2024.
- 02. Shri Shyam Bahadur (Branch not specified)** deposited Rupees Three Hundred Rs. 300/-) only on 29.02.2024.
- 03. Delhi Branch** deposited Rupees Nine hundred (Rs. 900/-) only on 29.02.2024 towards CHQ Quota for 3 new Life Members
- 04. Varanasi Branch (UP State)** deposited Rupees Six Hundred (Rs. 600/-) only on 11.03.2024 towards CHQ Quota for 2 new Life Members.
- 05. Jaunpur Branch (UP State)** deposited Rupees Three Hundred (Rs. 300/-) only on 16.03.2024 towards CHQ Quota for one new Life Member.
- 06. Trichy Branch (Tamilnadu State)** deposited Rupees Four Hundred (Rs. 400/-) only on 20.03.2024 towards CHQ Quota for 2 new Life Members enrolled before 31.03.2023.
- 07. Ambala Branch (Haryana State)** deposited Rupees Three Hundred (Rs.300/-) only on 26.03.2024 towards CHQ Quota for 1 new Life Member.

KIND ATTENTION BRANCH/STATE SECRETARIES

It is once again requested that immediately after depositing any amount into CHQ Account, it may please be ensured that details like Branch Name, Amount deposited, purpose of the deposit like Quota, Donation etc are sent to CHQ through CHQ email.

Website: <https://www.aibsnlrea.org>

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