



Editorial

DOT GIVES GREEN SIGNAL TO THE FINAL CABINET NOTE FOR PENSION REVISION

Finally, Department of Telecommunications has given green signal to the final Cabinet Note proposing revision of pension of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners and also those who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 by allowing the fitment benefit of merger of 50% IDA effectively amounting to 78.2% IDA as on 1.1.2007. The Cabinet Note also addresses the issue regarding sharing of present pension liability between DOT and BSNL on 60:40 ratio. The Cabinet Note got the approval of MOC&IT and is to be sent to the Prime Minister's Office and thereafter to the Cabinet Secretariat.

However, till the proposal gets approval of the Cabinet, we need to keep our fingers crossed. We may recollect that when draft Cabinet Note was sent to the concerned Ministries/Departments seeking for their comments, Department of Expenditure (DOE) was said to have raised some queries. At that time, DOT did not reply those queries and it was stated that the points raised by DOE will be addressed in the Cabinet Note itself. It has now to be seen whether DOE gets convinced with DOT's clarifications. Further, on the issue of pension liability, let us hope that DOE makes no point on this. Only silver lining on this particular

issue of pension liability is that DOT is said to have consulted Ministry of Law & Justice beforehand.

The fate of this Cabinet Note is expected to be known before this month end. If, as expected and prayed by thousands and thousands of affected BSNL pensioners/family pensioners, the proposal goes through, it will certainly be a big relief. But this will not be the end of the struggle. Since the relief will only be partial, we shall have to start another struggle to get the full relief. Once the Orders are issued, the same has to be analyzed and fresh move to get full justice has to be started.

It is unfortunate that the BSNL pensioners are still struggling to get justice for years for this pension revision. In fact, there would not have been any case for revision of pension for those who were in service on 1.1.2007 but retired before 10.6.2013, had they also been allowed to get their lawful claim for revision of their IDA pay Scales w.e.f. 1.1.2007 with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA. While these employees were denied the revision of pay scales with merger of 78.2% IDA, their colleagues who retired after 9.6.2013 were allowed the benefit. This is a clear

case of discrimination. How could there be two different parameters for fixation of pay in revised IDA pay scales for two different groups of employees – one getting the benefit with 68.2% DA and the other with 78.2% - even though all of them were in service on 1.1.2007 and when finally, as per DPE OM only one fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% for pay fixation in revised IDA pay scales w.e.f. 1.1.2007 came into force? But no Union/Association of serving employees ever raised the issue when the injustice was being meted out in violation of the rules.

Perhaps, they did not raise the issue apprehending that this might get their case also delayed.

But now some of them look to be seen as over-active in the matter – sometimes causing hurdles to settlement of the issue. Had they been really sincere at the very beginning when it mattered most, the pensioners/family pensioners would not have gone through these untold miseries. Hypocrisy has its limits. ☐☐☐

ALL INDIA CONFERENCE

AIBSNLREA has issued notification to hold its All India Conference at Bhubaneswar in Odisha to be held on 2nd and 3rd July, 2016. The two-day conference will be held in the Conference Hall of a Hotel near the Bhubaneswar Railway Station.

The stay of the participants has been arranged in the same Hotel from 1st to 3rd July 2016 (three days). If number of participants increases, their stay will be arranged in nearby Hotels of equal status and facilities. The participants will be offered A/C Rooms with twin sharing basis. We have made a package deal with the Hotel Management who besides accommodation, will supply Bed tea, Break Fast, Lunch and Dinner on all the three days. The Conference Hall is also air-conditioned. During conference besides Tea & snacks in the morning session, High Tea will be supplied in the after-noon session.

As per the revised and final deal, the charges for each participant comes to as Rs 5400/- for all the 3 days. While the participant delegate will be required to deposit Rs 3000/- as delegate fee to the Association in advance in CHQs S/B Account, the balance amount of Rs 2400/- on behalf of each delegate will be paid by the CHQ. The delegates desirous of joining the Conference along with the spouse are permitted to do so. Both of them will be provided the same A/C Room. However, the full expenditure Rs 5400/- for the spouse shall have to be borne by the concerned delegate-participant. The family pensioners may also attend the Conference.

The participant delegates are also requested to mail their journey particulars giving all the details including time of arrival and departure at and from Bhubaneswar, immediately after booking their tickets.

There will no business to be transacted on 1st July, 2016 and those coming early may utilize the day for sight-seeing. We are trying to contact some travel agencies to collect their tour destinations and rates etc which will be informed to all. All information regarding the AIC will be provided in the special page title “AIC-BBS” which has been opened on the left-hand side of the main-page of the website (www.aibsnlrea.org) of AIBSNLREA. In case of any enquiry, please mail gensecaibsnlrea@yahoo.com.

MEETING OF SCOVA

DoP&PW has notified that the next meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) will be held on 16.05.2015 in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Minister of State (PP). However, no agenda for the meeting has so far been circulated.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

30.04.2015 EXTENSION OF CGHS FACILITIES TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES – AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) REQUESTING HIM EARLY SETTLEMENT OF FIXATION OF RATES OF CONTRIBUTION AND WARD ENTITLEMENT: AIBSNLREA has now written a letter to Secretary (Telecom) with a copy endorsed to Secretary (Pension) urging him for an early settlement of fixation of rates of contribution and ward entitlement to the retired BSNL employees, so that the Orders already issued to allow the retired BSNL employees who are in receipt of Central Pension to have an option either to choose CGHS or BSNL MRS is implemented at the earliest. The issue is an item in the agenda for discussion in the last few meetings of SCOVA and in its last meeting held on 13.10.2015, it was decided that “Department of Telecom was asked to finalise the proposal quickly and send it to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by 31.10.2015.” *[Posting dated 30.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter].*

DOP&PW OM DATED 06.04.2016 ON REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE-2006 PENSIONERS- DELINKING OF REVISED PENSION FROM QUALIFYING SERVICE OF 33 YEARS – AIBSNLREA REQUESTS DDG (ESTT), DOT TO EXPEDITE ITS ENDORSEMENT: Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare vide it’s No 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 6.4.2016 has issued an OM on “Revision of pension of pre-2006 pensioners – delinking of revised pension from qualifying service of 33 years” [View posting dated 08.04.2016 in this website]. AIBSNLREA has now requested Dy. Director General (Estt), Department of Telecommunications to expedite its endorsement to CCAs and others concerned offices so that the benefit of the OM can be expeditiously extended to those DOT and absorbed BSNL pensioners who are to be benefitted by this decision of the Government. *[Posting dated 27.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter].*

NON-SETTLEMENT OF WRONG FIXATION OF PAY/PENSION OF SHRI ARABINDA CHAUDHURY, RETD EE (CIVIL), WEST BENGAL: AIBSNLREA has requested BSNL Corporate Office to expeditiously process and settle the above case which is pending for over last 10 years. It may be recalled that BSNL, in response to our letter, had earlier requested CGMT, West Bengal Circle to send some papers pertaining to the above case [View posting dated 07.02.2016 in this website]. Assuming that BSNL has obtained all the papers, AIBSNLREA has now requested to expedite the case. *[Posting dated 26.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter].*

INTRODUCTION OF HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME FOR PENSIONERS INCLUDING THOSE RESIDING IN NON-CGHS AREAS: It may be recalled that Government was proposing to introduce a Health Insurance Scheme for the pensioners including those residing in non-CGHS areas and AIBSNLREA was also pursuing the case. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in response to a letter on the issue from AIBSNLREA, had informed the Association that the said Ministry has circulated a draft EFC Note to the concerned Ministries/Departments for seeking their comments [view posting dated 27.02.2016 in this website]. Now AIBSNLREA has written another letter to the same Ministry requesting for an early decision on the matter [[Posting dated 25.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter](#)].

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION DATED 12/03/2015 ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON REMOVAL OF ANOMALY IN PENSION OF THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.07.2001: AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to the Prime Minister of India and endorsed a copy of the same to Minister of State for (PP) on the above mentioned issue [View posting dated 13.03.2015 in this website]. DoP&PW, in turn, had forwarded the same to Department of Telecommunication to examine the issues [View posting dated 17.04.2015 in this website to read the DoP&PW letter]. Now BSNL, vide its letter No. 40-27/2011-Pen.(B) dated 13.4.2016 has informed AIBSNLREA that " In this regard, it is intimated that DOT vide its letter dated 10/04/2015 had asked all the Pr. CCA/CCA to reconcile the pension data with the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) and Pension Sanctioning/Processing Authorities. For this purpose, it had prescribed a detailed procedure to be followed with the direction to intimate the action taken to DOT." [[Posting dated 20.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter](#)]

PMO FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA URGING HIM TO STRENGTHEN THE GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM OF THE PENSIONERS AND ALSO TO SET UP SEPARATE TRIBUNAL EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE PENSIONERS TO EXPEDITOUSLY SETTLE THEIR GRIEVANCES TO THE DOP&PW FOR ACTION APPROPRIATE: A report appeared on this page on 23.03.2016 that AIBSNLREA had written a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India highlighting the failure of the existing grievance redressal mechanism for the Pensioners and urging to create a separate Tribunal in all important cities exclusively for the Pensioners which could hear the petitions of the aggrieved pensioners expeditiously and give judgment. It also urged that 'to begin with, separate courts exclusively for the pensioners be created in all the benches of Central Administrative Tribunals'. Now the Prime Minister's Office, vide its No. PMOPG/D/2016/0077587 dated 28/3/2016, has forwarded the said representation to Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare with the direction to take action as appropriate. [[Posting dated 01.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter](#)]

REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING TO RESTORE THE RATE OF INTEREST ON THE DEPOSITS UNDER SENIOR CITIZENS SAVINGS SCHEME FORWARDED BY PMO TO DOP&PW: It was reported on this page on 21.03.2016 that AIBSNLREA had written a letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India expressing serious concern and deep anguish of the pensioners on the decision of the Government to reduce the rate of interest on deposits in Senior Citizens Saving Scheme. The Association had also requested to the Prime Minister to restore the rate of interest on the deposits under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme. Now Prime Minister's Office, vide its No. PMOPG/D/2016/0077330 dated 28/3/2016, has forwarded the said representation to Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare with the direction to take action as appropriate.[\[Posting dated 01.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter\]](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

DOP&PW ISSUES ORDERS DELINKING REVISED PENSION FROM QUALIFYING SERVICE OF 33 YEARS FOR REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE-2006 PENSIONERS: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 06.04.2016, has issued orders for delinking of revised pension from qualifying service of 33 years for revision of pension of pre-2006 pensioners. DOP&PW OM conveys that "It has now been decided that the revised consolidated pension of the pre-2006 pensioners shall not be lower than 50% of the minimum of the pay in the Pay Band and the grade pay (wherever applicable) corresponding to the pre-revised pay scale as per fitment table without pro-rata reduction of pension even if they had qualifying service of less than 33 years at the time of retirement." [\[Posting dated 08.04.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the DoP&PW OM\]](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, AMBALA BRANCH HELD: A general body meeting of Ambala Branch (Haryana State) of AIBSNLREA was held on 27th April 2016 under the presidency of Shri P.C Chauhan. 30 members of the branch participated in the meeting. The meeting was addressed by Shri J.C Gupta, Branch Secretary who briefed the members about the latest status of 78.2% IDA. It was informed to the members that the case is now in final stage and is likely to be sent to Cabinet Secretariat shortly by the DOT. The members were satisfied with this positive development on the issue. The members were briefed about the next All India Conference of AIBSNLREA being held at Bhubaneswar on 2nd and 3rd July 2016. It was informed to the members that based on the strength of Ambala branch a maximum of two delegates can attend the conference for which a delegate fee of Rs. 3000/- is to be borne by the delegates along with to and fro fare.

AMRAVATI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD IT'S BI-MONTHLY MEETING: Bi-monthly meeting of Amaravati branch (Maharashtra State) was held on 26/04/2016 in the Conference hall of o/o GMT Amaravati. Total 16 members were present. Shri V G Dakhode, Branch Secretary first gave the information about merger of 78.2% IDA for fitment benefit for the BSNL pensioners who retired prior to 10.06.2013. The House was informed that the Final Cabinet Note has been approved by MOC&IT and its Hindi translation is underway. He also told the House that once all other formalities are over, the Cabinet Note will be sent to Cabinet Secretariat. He further told the members that the medical claim bills for outdoor treatment, which were pending since last 2 and half years, have got cleared after due persuasion. It was informed by the Account Section of GMT, Amaravati that all pending bills up-to 21/3/2016 have been cleared. Some members complained that that they have not received the payments. Branch Secretary assured that the left out cases will be sorted out and will be pursued. He also apprised the house regarding AIC which is being held at Bhubaneswar on 2nd and 3rd July 2016 and requested the interested members desiring to attend the AIC to contact him within a week's time so that onward reservation and other formalities can be completed. He also informed that delegation fee of Rs.3000/-per delegate has to be deposited by 1/6/2016 and TA/DA is to be borne by the delegates themselves.. Branch Secretary also gave recent development on medical policy as CHQ is pursuing the case. The meeting was adjourned after presentation of vote of thanks.

AGB OF AIBSNLREA, CHENNAI BRANCH HELD: The Annual General Body Meeting of All India BSNL Retired Executives' Association, Chennai branch, was held on 20-4-2016 at Hotel Kanchi, Chennai from 10 AM. Shri V.Sivaswamy President, presided over the meeting and large number of retired executives of Chennai and Tamilnadu participated (49 members attended). Shri R. Kasiviswanathan, Secretary, placed the annual report for the year ending 2015 and the same was approved after discussion. Shri C.R. Rajasekaran, Financial Secretary submitted the financial statement for the relevant period and it was passed unanimously. Outstation members have also attended the meeting, which encouraged the office bearers. Shri V. Chinnappiah, CHQ Vice President addressed the meeting. Shri S. Rathnasubramanian, Joint Secretary (South), CHQ and Shri R.R. Balasubramanain addressed the members highlighting the various steps taken by AIBSNLREA CHQ in respect of various issues including the 78.2 % IDA issue and about the next AIC proposed to be held at Bhubaneswar etc. Few delegates from Chennai branch have decided to attend the AIC at Bhubaneswar on 2nd and 3rd July 2016. Later the election of new Office-Bearers was held and following were elected as the office bearers of the Branch for the next term.(2016-2017): - 1. President: Shri V. Dakshinamurthy, 2&3. Vice Presidents: Shri M. Kamsundher and Smt M.S. Ramlakshmi, 4. Branch Secretary: Shri L. Sundararaman, 5. Assistant Branch Secretary: Shri R.R. Balasubramanain, 6. Finance Secretary: Shri C.R. Rajasekaran, 7. Asst. Finance Secretary: Shri D.T. Sambandan and 8. Organising Secretary: Shri P.Ravichandranarayanan. The entire event was well organized by Sri R.R.Balasubramanian. The meeting ended with address by new President and vote of thanks by new Secretary followed by lunch.

BHOPAL BRANCH (MP STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS AGM: Bhopal Branch of AIBSNLREA held its Annual General Body Meeting on 17-04-2016. After discussion of various issues concerning the BSNL pensioners, election of new Office bearers of the Branch was also held. Followings were elected as office bearers of Bhopal Branch:-

1. President: Shri K. Nagarajan, Retd DGM(F),
2. Vice President: Shri O.P. Sharma, Retd DE,
3. Secretary:- Shri H.M. Bajpai, Retd. CAO,
4. Jt.Secretary: Shri M.P. Tiwari, Ret. SDE
5. Fin Secretary: Shri P.K. Gosh, Retd. SDE.

BIENNIAL BRANCH CONFERENCE OF BERHAMPUR BRANCH (WEST BENGAL) OF AIBSNLREA: The biennial branch conference of AIBSNLREA Berhampore (WB) Branch was held on 9th April, 2016 in the conference room of "Sancharika", the Administrative building of the SSA. Out of the total 28 members, 25 members attended the meeting. S/Shri S.K.Maitra, State Secretary S.R.Palit, P.N.Basak & Gopal Ghosh represented the State body in the conference. Branch secretary D.P.Maitra and Branch Finance Secretary A.C.Dhar placed their respective reports which were discussed, deliberated and accepted by the house. State Secretary in his speech elaborately discussed the issue of 78.2% merger, pension security, so called 60-40 created issue and also the dubious role played by a section of opportunistic leadership in this regard. A new committee comprising Shri P.K.Chaudhuri as president, Shri Tapan Bhowmik as Branch secretary, and Shri A.C.Dhar as Finance Secretary were elected unanimously in the after Lunch Session.

KOLHAPUR BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS QUARTERLY GB MEETING: Quarterly GB meeting of Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) was held on 3rd April 2016 in Telephone Bhavan Conference Hall under the Presidentship of Shri L M Godi, Branch President. The meeting started with Prayer and was attended by 61 members. President welcomed all the members and wished them a Happy New Sanvtsara commencing from 8th April, and "Gudi Padava". Branch Secretary then informed the House about the sad demise of Shri W. Sheshgiri Rao, a veteren Telecom leader and Ex-President of SNEA and Shri R P Sapre, Retd DE and member of Kolhapur Branch. He lauded the contribution of Shri Rao in organizing the Telecom fraternity and his dedicated service towards welfare of Telecom Engineers. Asst. Branch Secretary spoke of Shri RP Sapre's qualities and contribution to the service. The house observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls. Then Secretary informed in detail the status of revision of Pension with merger of 78.2% IDA and the reasons for its long delay, latest position of the issue and action taken by our and other Association of BSNL Pensioners. He also replied the queries raised by the members on the this issue. He dealt with recent announcement in Union Budget of Tax relief of Rs.5000/-, if the Taxable income is less than 5 Lakh. He also informed the latest issues which have been taken up by different Associations. Finally he requested the members to approach other retired BSNL executives to join this Association. S/Shri NC Jain, SM Vaidy and RD Kale and other members expressed their views on pension revision. The members also opined that the Association should hold one All India Conference anywhere in India, which shall generate new energy among the members. A small talk was then arranged on " Jyotish Shastra" delivered by Shri Prakash Bogare, a retired Bank Manager, Kolhapur. He briefly informed about the Shastra, its basics and its use for the common people. He said that it is a big subject having various angles for predicting one's future and solutions to the problems. In many countries this Indian Shastra is being studied and research done. The members gave good response in the question-answer

session. Shri PS Kulkarni, Asst. Secretary, gave brief information on the “Generic Medicine” which are equivalent medicines to the regular branded Medicines prescribed by the Doctors. He also gave the information of the shops that have recently opened in Kolhapur and asked members to take advantage of the same for cheap medicines. Branch Secretary then announced that the lunch after this Meeting has been sponsored by Shri VB Mahajan, who recently celebrated his first son’s marriage. All members congratulated him and offered good wishes to the newly married Couple. The meeting concluded with of vote thanks to Shri Prakash Bogare, Lecturer and all the members especially those who came from outside Kolhapur. The meeting was followed by lunch at 1400 Hrs.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING APRIL 2016

Tiruchirapally Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees One thousand four hundred (Rs 1400.00) only in CHQ’s Account with Karur Vysya Bank on 21.04.2016 towards CHQ quota for seven (7) new life members.

Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees Six hundred (Rs 600.00) only in CHQ’s Account with Syndicate Bank on 18.04.2016 towards CHQ quota for three (3) new life members.

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