



Editorial

ASSISTANCE FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT UNDER SEVERE THREAT

Of late, the facilities for outdoor treatment under the BSNLMRS are receiving severe threats of cuts in ceiling limits from the BSNL administration. Financial constraint is being projected as the reasons for imposing cuts. Unfortunately, BSNL has chosen an area which directly impacts not only all the employees – but mostly the retired employees. As if there is no other area in BSNL in which financial regulations cannot be exercised. This rigid mindset of the administration cannot be appreciated.

On retirement, the income of the retired employees is immediately reduced to half. At this stage, the retired employees are also to meet some unavoidable social obligations like marriages in the family, arranging roof over their own head etc. Thus most of their life time savings are spent on such activities. With advancing age, many chronic diseases like hypertension, blood sugar, heart ailment, arthritis and other ailments requiring long term treatment catch up with them. These may not always need hospitalization, but huge expenditure is incurred regularly by way of consultation, tests and medicines in outdoor treatment. Any cut in ceiling limit, therefore, hurts the pensioners most since a significant part of the limited pension that they receive will also have to be set aside for treatment if cut in ceiling limit is imposed.

At a time when all the retired employees were expecting that certain ambiguities and aberrations in the existing entitlements for the retired employees will be corrected, the announcement of BSNL that the proposal for further cut in ceiling limits and other related issues are under its consideration is nothing but rubbing salt into the wounds. Unfortunately, the BSNL administration does not even consider it necessary to listen to the voices of its retired employees anymore and as such is treating them as their soft target. This is really appalling.

On the other hand, when the Government is giving utmost importance to healthcare and is also introducing a new Scheme i.e. 'Ayusman Bharat' to allow free treatment upto Rs. 5 lakhs per family to cover about 50 crores people of India, BSNL's apathetic attitude in the same field towards the elderly is indeed condemnable and unacceptable. We have already made a few representations to BSNL expressing our concerns on the moves to reduce the ceiling limit and suggesting some means to make the schemes more meaningful.

We hope against hope that BSNL administration does consider our concerns in right earnest and avoid punishing the retired employees. ■

IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE MONTH

- After AIBSNLREA raised the issue, BSNL has issued Orders for release of 3rd and 4th quarterly instalments of allowance payable to the optee BSNL retired employees under the without voucher facility for medical claims under BSNLMRS.
- DPE has advised DOT to seek Cabinet approval to get relaxation of affordability clause in the guidelines for revision of IDA Pay Scales of the BSNL Executives. DOT is now to process the case further.
- As per the clarifications issued by the Government of India, Pensioners will also be eligible for Standard deduction of Rs. 40,000 in their Income Tax returns. However, tax exemption on transport allowance and reimbursement of medical claims (upto Rs 15000/-) have been withdrawn. In addition, tax exemption on interests from deposits upto Rs. 50000/- has also been allowed. These changes will be applicable from the financial year 2018-19 i.e. assessment year 2019-20.
- DPE has issued Orders for revision of IDA w.e.f. 01.04.2018.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL ALLOWANCE AGAINST CLAIMS FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT UNDER WITHOUT VOUCHER FACILITY TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-18: AIBSNLREA has represented to Director (HR), BSNL highlighting the genuine problems of the retired BSNL employees, who opted for outdoor treatment without voucher facility for the financial year 2017-18, due to non-release of payments for 3rd and 4th quarters and in some cases even for earlier quarters. The Association has pointed out that “ Since entire payments received under this facility is taxable and the financial year is already over, non-release of payment of all earlier quarters have put the concerned pensioners in a grim difficult situation”. The Association has finally requested Director (HR) to intervene and “advise all the BSNL Units to immediately clear payment of all earlier quarters for the financial year 2017-18”. [View posting dated 19.04.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING THE DILATORY ATTITUDE OF DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION IN ACCORDING APPROVAL TO BSNL’S PROPOSAL FOR REVISION OF PAY SCALES OF ITS EXECUTIVES: In continuation of its earlier representations to the Prime Minister of India on the above issue, AIBSNLREA again addresses Prime Minister since DOT is avoiding taking decision on the matter as per the power and authority vested with it [View postings dated 16/01/2018, 28/01/2018 and 15/03/2018 in this website to read the earlier communications]. The Association has again pointed out that affordability clause should not be a bar to grant revised IDA pay scales to the BSNL Executives since MTNL Executives were

granted revised IDA pay scales as per 2nd PRC despite existence of similar affordability clause and MTNL being a chronic loss making PSE. Association has further pointed out that as per the Cabinet decision for allowing payment of pension to the MTNL employees by the Government, the pay scales of MTNL Executives were required to be brought at par with BSNL Executives during next wage revision. Thus, DOT cannot now avoid upward revision of pay scales of BSNL Executives. The Association has further stated that DOT is just trying to evade its responsibility on the pay scale issue and has unnecessarily sent the BSNL's proposal to DPE for advice. The Association has also quoted from the Order issued by DOT granting 30% fitment benefit to the MTNL employees in their revised IDA scales that the MOC&IT is competent to approve the BSNL's proposal for revision of pay scales. The Association has pleaded that "Let Department of Telecommunication stop its dilatory attitude and accord its approval to the BSNL's proposal for revision of IDA pay scales of BSNL Executives by exercising its own power and authority as it did in the past in case of MTNL Executives as mentioned above". [View posting dated 17.04.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

NON-COMPLIANCE OF BSNL ORDER FOR TIME-BOUND SETTLEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES - AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH DIRECTOR (HR): AIBSNLREA brings to the notice of the Director (HR), BSNL that the BSNL Office Order to ensure that "all claims of retired employees are settled within one month from the date of receipt of claims" has been put into cold storage by the field units and their claims are not being settled for months together and even in some cases for more than a year. The Association has further stated that "With their limited income, which comes through pension, the retired employees are finding it difficult to continue with their treatment for non-clearance and payment of their earlier claims. The delay also affects them physically and mentally". The Association has sought for her so that the BSNL Office instructions dated 10.08.2016 for settling claims of the retired employees of BSNL received within one month from the date of receipt are strictly adhered to. [View posting dated 16.04.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ON PAY/PENSION REVISION TO THE SECRETARY DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS: AIBSNLREA had sent another representation to the Prime Minister of India on 17/04/2018 wherein it was highlighted how DOT is evading a decision on BSNL's proposal for revision of pay scales of the BSNL Executives on the pretext of an affordability clause though the same DOT found no problem in granting revised pay scales to the Executives of chronic loss making MTNL as per 2nd PRC despite availability of a similar affordability clause. The Association also pointed out that DOT was further trying to evade its responsibility on the pay scale revision and unnecessarily sent the BSNL's proposal to DPE for advice – though MOSC&IT is competent to approve the same as the authority was exercised in case of revision of pay scales of MTNL Executives as per 2nd PRC recommendations [View posting dated 17.04.2018 in this website to read the representation]. PMO has advised DOT to take action as appropriate on the representation of the Association. [View posting dated 26.04.2018 in this website to read the PMO letter](#)

KALYAN TELECOM DISTRICT, BSNL NOW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION REGARDING NON-RELEASE OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI R K HIRKANEY, RETD DE, MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA had taken up and pursuing the case for settlement of pension and release of pending pensionary benefits of Shri R K Hirkaney, Retd DE of Maharashtra Telecom Circle who was earlier ordered for 20% cut in pension for 5 years w.e.f. 01.04.2008. His final retirement Order was also not being issued despite completion of his penalty period on 31.03.2013. On constant persuasion by the Association, BSNL Corporate Office issued his final retirement Order effective from 31.07.2005 (A/N) which paved the way for PGM, Kalyan SSA to process his case for payment of gratuity and release of orders to fix entitled basic pension [View postings dated 31.08.2017, 19.12.2017, 08.01.2018 and 27.02.2018 in this website for more details]. Now Kalyan Telecom District of BSNL, referring to the CPGRMS Docket initiated by Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare on the basis of representation of AIBSNLREA, has informed the Association that Service Book and the retirement Order of Shri R K Hirkaney, Retd DE were sent to Sr. AO(Pension), o/o Pr.CCA, Mumbai for revision of his pay/pension as per 68.2% & 78.2% DA fitment formula since the Officer retired before 01.01.2006. [View posting dated 10.04.2018 in this website to read the PGM, Kalyan BSNL letter](#)

DOT FORWARDS DOP&PW'S REMINDER REGARDING WRONG FIXATION OF REVISED PENSION AS WAS TAKEN UP BY AIBSNLREA TO THE CCA, KERALA: It was reported in this website on 23.03.2018 that with reference to its earlier letter dated 07.12.2017 to DOT regarding non-revision of pension by allowing fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA for the purpose of fixation of pay/pension with effect from 1.1.2007, as was taken up by AIBSNLREA, by the CCA, Kerala, DOP&PW had issued a reminder to DOT asking for the action taken on the representation of AIBSNLREA and also forwarding another representation of the Association on wrong fixation of pay and pension. Now DOT has forwarded the said letter of DOP&PW to the CCA, Kerala for examination and furnishing comments regarding the same back to DOT at the earliest. View also postings dated 11.12.2017 and 21.02.2018. [View posting dated 08.04.2018 in this website to read the DOT](#)

DOP&PW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION REGARDING NON-MAINTAINING THE SCHEDULE FOR HOLDING PENSION ADALATS BY THE PRINCIPAL CCAs/CCAs – ADVISES DOT THAT THE PENSION ADALATS BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY DOP&PW: AIBSNLREA had represented to Secretary (Telecom) and others including Secretary (Pension) to intervene in the matter of non-maintaining the prescribed schedule to hold Pension Adalats at regular intervals by the Principal CCAs/CCAs thereby depriving the pensioners/family pensioners the opportunity to raise their grievances in that important platform [View posting dated 03.03.2018 in this website to read the letter]. Now DOP&PW has responded to that representation and advised DOT that the Pension Adalats be conducted in accordance with the guidelines issued by DOP&PW vide its OM No. 44013/2/2010-P&PW (Coord) dated 25.03.2011. DOT has also been advised to send a suitable reply to the Association. [View posting dated 05.04.2018 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

PG CELL OF DOT INFORMS THE STATUS REGARDING CASES OF WRONG FIXATION OF PENSION OF SOME PENSIONERS (EXECUTIVES) IN KERALA CIRCLE WHICH WERE TAKEN UP BY AIBSNLREA

– **INFORMS THAT PENSION OF THE SAID PENSIONERS WILL BE REVISED:** We have been reporting from time to time the development regarding the cases of wrong fixation of pension of few retired Executives of Kerala by the Office of CCA, Kerala which were taken up by AIBSNLREA with Secretary (Telecom) and others [view postings dated 20.02.2018, 22.03.2018, 23.03.2018 and 03.04.2018]. Now the PG Cell of DOT has posted the status report of the case in pgportal and also informed the Association that after processing the case of Smt Mythili who is junior to other concerned retired officers, the pension of all these 4 pensioners will be revised and orders will be issued accordingly. [View posting dated 04.04.2018 in this website to read the status report of DOT](#)

DOT FORWARDS ANOTHER COPY OF REPRESENTATION FROM AIBSNLREA ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) REGARDING WRONG FIXATION OF PENSION TO THE CCA, KERALA: We reported earlier in this website vide posting dated 22.03.2018 that PG Cell of DOT has forwarded the copy of the representation from AIBSNLREA on the above issue, which was endorsed to Member (F), to the CCA Kerala Circle for uploading in PG Portal for further course of action/settlement with the concerned offices. We again reported in this website on 23.03.2018 that DOP&PW has issued a reminder to DOT to intimate the action taken on the representation of the Association in the matter of non-revision of Pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA by CCA. Kerala Office of some BSNL IDA pensioners (Executives). Now PG Cell of DOT has again forwarded the representation addressed to Secretary (Telecom) in the matter of wrong fixation of pension to some retired BSNL Executives to the CCA Kerala for appropriate remedial action. [View posting dated 03.04.2018 in this website to read the DOT letter](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

BSNL ISSUES ORDERS FOR RELEASE OF LAST TWO QUARTERLY INSTALMENTS PAYABLE TO THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES WHO OPTED FOR WITHOUT VOUCHER FACILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-18 UNDER BSNLMRS: BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-22/14 dated 25.04.2018, has finally issued Orders for release of last two quarterly instalments payable to the optees (retired employees) for the year 2017-18 who had opted for medical claims for outdoor treatment under without voucher facility. BSNL has also intimated that decision regarding continuation of without voucher facility and other related issues will be conveyed after its approval. It may be recalled that AIBSNLREA had been continuously pursuing with BSNL for release of pending payments to the retired employees who opted for outdoor claims under without voucher facility. Postings dated 28/2/2018 and 19/04/2018 in this website be viewed for earlier references. [View posting dated 25.04.2018 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

STATUS OF REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE-2007 AND POST 2007 BSNL PENSIONERS WITH FITMENT BENEFIT BY MERGER OF 78.2% DA/DR WITH BASIC PAY/PENSION: In a meeting held in the chamber of DDG (Accounts), DoT, CCA-wise list of pension revision cases as per 78.2% IDA fitment yet to be received from BSNL has been handed over to BSNL authorities for early action on sending remaining pension revision cases to CCA concerned. BSNL has circulated the list to the circles and has requested to identify and send the remaining cases CCA concerned at the earliest. [View posting dated 07.04.2018 in this website to read the BSNL letter](#)

DPE ISSUES ORDERS FOR REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2018 FOR CPSEs WHERE LAST PAY REVISION WAS IMPLEMENTED W.E.F. 1.1.2007: DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2018 from 126.9% to 127.2% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. [View posting dated 04.04.2018 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

DPE ISSUES ORDERS FOR REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2018 FOR CPSEs WHERE LAST PAY REVISION WAS IMPLEMENTED W.E.F. 1.1.1997: DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2018 from 283.1% to 283.5% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. [View posting dated 04.04.2018 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, GHAZIABAD BRANCH HELD: Ghaziabad Branch of AIBSNLREA held a General Body meeting on 29.04.2018 at ALTTC. The Branch President Shri Naresh Chand, Retd GM chaired the meeting. The meeting started with self-introduction of the members present. Shri R C Khanduri, Branch Secretary, who has re-organized the Branch which remained inactive for some time after the demise of former President of the Branch, also spoke on the occasion. About 20 members attended the meeting and another 22 new members have been enrolled by the Branch. Shri V P Arya, Asst. General Secretary, CHQ attended the meeting. In his address, he briefed the members on many important issues like Pay Revision of the serving executives as per 3rd PRC, revision of pension of past pensioners of BSNL, legal remedy being sought for by the Association on pay and pension arrears following issue of orders for fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA, medical facilities under BSNLMRS and CGHS. He also mentioned about the Orders issued by Corporate Office for release of payment for 3rd and 4th quarters under without voucher facility to the retired employees after the Association took up the issue. He also clarified the doubts raised by the members on different issues. Lunch was served after conclusion of the meeting.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, SHIMLA BRANCH HELD: A General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Shimla Branch was held on 04.04.2018. Shri S R Sharma, Branch President presided over the meeting. Branch Secretary Shri Harikrishan submitted his activity report which was approved by the GB. The Financial Secretary also submitted the statement of accounts. Discussions took place on issues like pension revision, court case on pay/pension arrears and BSNLMRS etc. Members expressed their unhappiness on the proposed reduction in the ceiling limit for outdoor treatment with voucher. Thereafter, a new body was elected unanimously with the following office bearers:- (1) President: Shri D K Verma, Retd DGM(F), (2) Vice-Presidents: S/Shri J S Verma, Retd Sr.PS and R P Gupta, Retd DGM, (3) Branch Secretary: Shri G S Negi, Retd DGM, (4) Asst Branch Secretary: S/Shri I S Bhandari, Retd JTO, S R Garg, Retd CAO, Vinod Kumar Mehta, Retd SDE and Jeevan Lal, Retd JTO, (5) Organizing Secretary: S/Shri Praveen Kumar Malhotra, Retd SDE and Manmohan Sharma, Retd SDE, (6) Financial Secretary: Shri Lal Bahadur, Retd SDE. In addition, S/Shri V N Sharma, B K Kashyap, Hari Krishan, S R Sharma and K L Thakur were elected as the Executive Committee members.

ALLAHABAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING: Allahabad Branch of AIBSNLREA held a General Body Meeting on 04.04.2018 in the Telephone Exchange campus. Shri R S Arora, UP State Secretary attended the meeting and apprised the members about the development on 3rd PRC, Pension revision and court case on pay/pension arrears issue etc. The meeting was well attended and the members enthusiastically participated in the discussions on other issues as well. After the Branch Secretary and Financial Secretary submitted their reports, the old body was dissolved and a new body was elected with the following office bearers:- (1) President: Shri R S Gupta, (2) Vice-Presidents: S/Shri K P Mishra and M P Tripathi, (3) Branch Secretary: Shri Ram Lakhan, (4) Asst Branch Secretary: S/Shri Shriram, C P Roy, H L Yadav, (5) Financial Secretary: Shri Damodar Prasad, (6) Asst. Financial Secretary: G C Kushwaha, (7) Organizing Secretary: S/Shri L Ram and Ram Chandra, (8) Executive Members: S/Shri Lalji Kesari, L B Singh, Brahmadeen, V K Gupta and A K Kushwaha. The Branch Secretary then addressed the house and thanked the members for attending the meeting. He also thanked State Secretary for apprising the members about the latest development on the important issues

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING APRIL 2018

An amount of Rupees one thousand two hundred (Rs. 1200/-) has been credited in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26/04/2018.

Raipur Branch (Chattishgarh State) has deposited Rupees one thousand two hundred (Rs 1200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 23.04.2018 as contribution (Rs 500/-) to seek legal remedy for pay/pension arrears, donation on receiving pension arrears (Rs. 500/-) and quota (Rs. 200/-) for 1 new Life Member.

Gorakhpur Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees one thousand eight hundred (Rs 1800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 17.04.2018 as CHQ quota for 9 new Life Members.

Gorakhpur Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees two thousand five hundred (Rs 2500/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 10.04.2018 as contribution to seek legal remedy for pay/pension arrears.

Shri N Kankan, Retired ADG, BSNL Corporate Office & Life Member, Headquarters Branch has deposited Rupees two thousand (Rs 2000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 03.04.2018 towards contribution to seek legal remedy for pay/pension arrears.

Shri K Yohannan, Retired ADG, BSNL Corporate Office has deposited Rupees one thousand fifty (Rs 1050/) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 03.04.2018 for Life Membership (Rs. 550/-) and contribution (Rs 500/-) to seek legal remedy for pay/pension arrears.

Shri Mohd Ilyas, Retired ADG, BSNL Corporate Office has deposited Rupees one thousand fifty (Rs 1050/) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 03.04.2018 for Life Membership (Rs. 550/-) and contribution (Rs 500/-) to seek legal remedy for pay/pension arrears.