



Editorial

MORE CLARIFICATIONS ON COMPREHENSIVE PENSION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CPMS)

Last year, DOT launched its Comprehensive Pension Management System (CPMS) to take over the responsibility for direct disbursement of pension to the BSNL/DOT pensioners which was being disbursed through the Banks/Post Offices. From the very beginning, AIBSNLREA had been raising some basic issues which were required to be sorted out to avoid subsequent harassment to the pensioners. Our concerns had been mainly on issues like submission of Annual Life Certificate, issue of monthly Pension slips and Form-16. Earlier, DOT had issued certain clarifications on these issues which were not found fully satisfactory. Now in response to an RTI application by Shri R R Balasubramanian, Asst. Branch Secretary, Chennai on his individual capacity, DOT has replied that Annual Life Certificate can continue to be submitted at the Banks/Post Offices having Jeevan Praman facility. In addition, the Pensioners Service Centre at SSAs and Pensioners' Lounge at CCA Offices will facilitate online submission of Digital Life Certificate. Pensioners may access the Monthly Pension Slips on his dashboard by logging with his/her User ID and also access the same from his/her registered mail id. SMS alert will be received in the registered

mobile number, whenever pension is credited in the bank account. As regards, issue of Form-16, it has been stated that the same will be sent to the pensioner's address by Post. Further, BSNL has been asked to provide List of locations where Pensioners Service Centres are opened in BSNL SSAs/Units. The viewers can have further detailed information on this issue from the Reply received from DOT which stands duly posted on 22.04.2019 in this website.

However, the latest clarification that the DOT has now furnished again fail to assure the pensioners that there would be no problem in submitting the Annual Life Certificates. DOT says that one can continue to submit his/her Annual Life Certificate in the Banks/Post Offices. But it is not clarified whether the DOT has made any firm arrangement/agreement with Banks/Post Offices to this effect. Fact remains that at present Banks/Post Offices are paid certain charges by DOT for discharging the function of disbursement of pension/family pension. But once DOT takes over the responsibility of disbursement of pension/family pension from the Banks/Post Offices and transfers the monthly pension/family pension in the

Savings Bank Accounts of the pensioners/family pensioners, the Banks/Post Offices will no longer be obliged to provide free service of accepting Annual Life Certificates. In that case, if the Banks/Post Offices refuse to accept the Annual Life Certificate, the pensioners/family pensioners will be in a great soup. After all, they cannot be expected to run from the far-off places to the Pensioners' Lounge at CCA Offices or the Pensioners' Service Centres in BSNL Units/SSAs – especially when it is not known whether the BSNL Units/SSAs are to open such Centres at different locations or in a single location. Moreover, given the financial constraints that the BSNL is now facing and having no responsibility towards payment of pension, will it open and man such centre/centres with necessary infrastructure to provide the service without getting any financial assistance from DOT? These are some of the doubts that DOT needs to clear. Earlier, it was told that details of the Pension Slips would also

be provided by sending SMS on the registered mobile numbers of the pensioners. But the above stated DOT's Reply is silent on this issue. Further, DOT now says that the Form-16 would be sent to the concerned pensioners by Post. Here also, we will have to keep our fingers crossed and would feel lucky to receive them on time before submitting Income Tax Returns. In the background of our experience with the efficiency of CCA Offices, our concerns may not be called unjustified.

However, we know that the disbursement of pension of the new retirees is now being done under CMPS. No doubt, the numbers of such pensioners are far less than the number of old pensioners. Still their experience on the above issues would be an important input for us to get the concerns addressed by DOT before the old pensioners are also brought under the purview of CMPS. Let us continue to work in this direction.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

NON-ADDRESSING THE ISSUE REGARDING WRONG APPLICATION OF BSNL ORDER FOR REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF DAYS OF PAY FROM 25 DAYS TO 23 DAYS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATION OF ANNUAL CEILING LIMIT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT IN RESPECT OF THE PRE-2007 BSNL PENSIONERS – AIBSNLREA AGAIN TAKES UP THE ISSUE: AIBSNLREA has again taken up the above issue since the matter raised in its earlier representation, vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2018/53 dated 11.10.2018, remained unaddressed [Posting dated 13.10.2018 in this website be viewed to read the letter]. The Association has reiterated that the annual ceiling limit for reimbursement of medical claims of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners is governed by a completely different Order vide No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 8.9.2010. The annual ceiling limit of medical claims for the absorbed pre-2007 BSNL pensioners, who rightly did not receive the benefit of revised pay scales w.e.f. 1.1.2007, was allowed to be calculated based on their pre-revised basic pay. The pre-revised basic pay of pre-2007 pensioner has no connection with fitment benefit of either 68.8% IDA or 78.2% IDA. Thus, the basic pay of the pre-revised BSNL pensioners in their pre-revised pay scale did not undergo

any change following raising the fitment benefit from 68.8% IDA to 78.2% IDA for the post-2007 BSNL employees/pensioners. Therefore, the BSNL Office letter No. BSNL/Admn.I/ 15-12/18 dated 10.07.2018, reducing the number of days of pay from 25 days to 23 days, in no way can be applied for pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners. The Association has requested Director (HR), BSNL to cause issue of a suitable clarification to all concerned so that the said BSNL Office letter No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/18 dated 10.07.2018, reducing the number of days of pay from 25 days to 23 days, is not applied in respect of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners. [\[View posting dated 23.04.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

REQUEST TO ENSURE PAYMENT OF REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS WITH OR WITHOUT VOUCHERS UNDER BSNLMRS BEFORE 31st MARCH, 2019: AIBSNLREA had earlier taken up the above matter with Director (HR), BSNL [view posting dated 26.03.2019 in this website]. The Association has now again taken up the matter stating that the latest drive by BSNL to clear the pending bills upto January, 2019 could not benefit most of the pensioners since the BSNL Units did not process their claims which were submitted long before. The BSNL Units had been just filing the claims on the plea that funds are not being allotted by Corporate Office. The Association has further stated that because of this peculiar mentality of the concerned officials in BSNL Units, the pensioners failed to get their claims settled. The Association has finally requested Director (HR) “to kindly advise all BSNL Units to clear all the pending medical claims received during 2018-19 to facilitate their immediate payment”. [\[View posting dated 15.04.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

NON-ISSUE OF FINAL RETIREMENT ORDER AND CONSEQUENT NON-SETTLEMENT OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS – CASE OF SHRI DAYANIDHI SAHOO, RETD CAO, ODISHA TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA has taken up the above issue with Director (HR), BSNL. The Association has pointed out in its letter that “Shri Dayanidhi, Sahoo, Retd CAO, while working in Odisha Telecom Circle, was issued a charge sheet for major penalty under Rule-36 of BSNL CDA Rule and awarded punishment of 5% cut in pension for a period of one year. On implementation and completion of this penalty, Odisha Telecom Circle, vide its No. VO/Miss-Corr/2009/934 dated 23.07.2018 had requested BSNL Corporate Office to issue final retirement Order of Shri Dayanidhi Sahoo, Retd CAO”. The Association has also mentioned that in response to a communication from SEA Section of BSNL Corporate Office, Odisha Telecom Circle had also sent all the requested documents vide its No. ST/147-83/17/12 dated 06.12.2018. Since the much-needed final retirement order has not been issued till this day, AIBSNLREA has sought the intervention of Director (HR). [\[View posting dated 12.04.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE’S RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION AGAINST THE ORDER FOR ARBITRARY DEDUCTION OF THE COST OF MEDICINES @ 12% FROM THE MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE PENSIONERS/EMPLOYEES: As reported in this website on 04.04.2019, DOT had forwarded the representation of AIBSNLREA on the above issue to BSNL. The Association wanted withdrawal of the Order issued by Maharashtra Telecom Circle

to purchase medicines only from the chain of stores offering discounts and providing home delivery and also ordering 12% deduction of the cost of medicines if purchased from other pharmacies. Now Maharashtra Telecom Circle has sent a report with copy endorsed to AIBSNLREA which has been forwarded by DOT to the Association. The report says that some unions/associations of serving employees of Maharashtra Circle had a meeting with Circle administration in November 2018 on this issue and they were required to give details with justifications for taking up the matter with Corporate Office, but there is no response so far from none of these unions/associations. [\[View posting dated 28.04.2019 in this website to read the letter/documents\].](#)

DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) TO DDG(ESTT), DOT REGARDING DENIAL OF THE BENEFIT OF NOTIONAL PROMOTION AND CONSEQUENTIAL PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO SHRI SHANKAR SINGH YADAV, RETD JTO OF MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Secretary(Pension), Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, since the issue remained unsettled even after the concerned pensioner made several representations and the Association also taking up the issue with Director(HR), BSNL as back as on 12.02.2018. The pensioner Shri Shankar Singh Yadav, Retd JTO was ordered to be promoted as TES Group Officer by DOT in 1998. But this could not be implemented since a CBI case was registered against him. Subsequently, the Special Court of CBI acquitted him of the charges after his retirement. After this, he got absorbed in BSNL and is now entitled to get the benefit of notional promotion and all other consequential pensionary benefits in terms of DOP&T OM No. 22011/3/2013-Estt. (D) dated 25.01.2016. The Association had sought the personal intervention of Secretary (Pension) in this case to render justice to Shri Shankar Singh Yadav, Retd JTO by allowing him the benefit of "notional promotion" and other consequential pensionary benefits (view posting dated 25.03.2019 in this website to read the letter). DOP&PW has now forwarded the said representation of the Association to DDG(Estt), Department of Telecommunications for necessary action as per extant rules. [\[View posting dated 21.04.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter\].](#)

DOP&PW NOW FORWARDS REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO BSNL REGARDING ARBITRARY DEDUCTION OF THE COST OF MEDICINES @ 12% FROM THE MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE PENSIONERS/EMPLOYEES – CASES OF MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE: It was reported in this website on 04.04.2019 that DOT has forwarded AIBSNLREA's representation that was addressed to Director (HR), BSNL and copy endorsed to Secretary (Telecom), DOT and Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW on the above issue to BSNL. The Association had requested for withdrawal of the Order issued by Maharashtra Telecom Circle to purchase medicines only from the chain of stores offering discounts and providing home delivery. It was also ordered 12% deduction of the cost of medicines if purchased from other pharmacies. Association wanted withdrawal of the said Order [View posting dated 17.03.2019 in this website to read the representation]. Now DOP&PW has also forwarded the said representation of the Association to DOT for appropriate necessary action as per extant rules. [\[View posting dated 19.04.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter\].](#)

BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL TO THE CGMT, SHIMLA REGARDING NON-EMPANELMENT OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS FOR INDOOR TREATMENT OF BSNL EMPLOYEES/BSNL PENSIONERS: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Director (HR), BSNL vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2018/55 dated 17.10.2018 (view posting dated 18.10.2018 in this website to read the letter) followed by a reminder vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2019/07 dated 12.03.2019 enclosing the List of Private Hospitals empanelled (within the state) with the Government of Himachal Pradesh in which the Central Government employees have also been permitted to take treatment. The Association had urged so that CGMT, Shimla, BSNL allows treatment of the BSNL IDA pensioners and its serving employees in these private hospitals after due negotiations, if needed (view posting dated 13.03.2019 in this website to read the letter). Now BSNL Corporate Office has forwarded this representation to CGMT, Shimla to look into the matter and take necessary action under intimation to the Admn.I Branch of Corporate Office. [\[View posting dated 18.04.2019 in this website to read the BSNL letter\].](#)

DOT FORWARDS REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO BSNL REGARDING ARBITRARY DEDUCTION OF THE COST OF MEDICIENS @ 12% FROM THE MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE PENSIONERS/EMPLOYEES – CASES OF MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA had represented to Director (HR), BSNL with copy endorsed to Secretary (Telecom), DOT and Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW on the above issue wherein Maharashtra Telecom Circle had issued instruction to purchase medicines only from the chain of stores offering discounts and providing home delivery. It also ordered 12% deduction of the cost of medicines if purchased from other pharmacies. Association wanted withdrawal of the said Order. [View posting dated 17.03.2019 in this website to read the letter]. Now DOT has forwarded the representation of the Association to BSNL for appropriate remedial action. [\[View posting dated 04.04.2019 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2019: DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2019 from 138.8% to 141.4% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. . [\[View posting dated 04.04.2019 in this website to read the DPE Order\].](#)

04.04.2019: REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2019: DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2019 from 303.1% to 307.5% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. . [\[View posting dated 04.04.2019 in this website to read the DPE Order\].](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, AKOLA BRANCH HELD: AIBSNLREA, Akola (MH) Branch held its General Body meeting on 22nd April 2019 at Conference Hall, O/O GM Telecom, BSNL Akola. Shri N.N. Ambatkar Akola presided over the meeting which was attended by 21 members. Shri A.G. Nema, Branch Secretary welcomed all the members present in the meeting. Branch Secretary also apprised about the latest scenario prevailing in BSNL in respect of revenue constraints. This has resulted in delay in clearing medical claims of retirees. Most of the members

received medical claims up to 3 quarters of this financial year but there are some left out cases in which members are yet to receive payments. No member of Buldhana SSA could receive any amount since 2018-19. After persuasion, it was surprisingly revealed that the Account section of Buldhana SSA has not even prepared the Data-base pertaining to medical claims of retired employee. Branch Secretary is in constant touch with SSA head. This matter has also been informed to the State Secretary for further action. President Shri N.N. Ambatkar, who happens to be Organisational Secretary of MH Circle (East), in his address covered all the remaining points including pension revision issue. As the regular President of the Branch Shri V.V. Bhagat is not keeping in good health since long, Shri M.T. Mahalle Rtd. DGM Finance Circle Office was unanimously selected as additional President of this Branch. The meeting was adjourned with presentation of vote of thanks by the Branch Secretary.

AIBSNLREA, AMBALA BRANCH HOLD GB MEETING: A general body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 16th April 2019 at Dilli Durbar Restaurant. The meeting presided over by Shri H.C Madan was attended by 28 members. Two new members joined the branch as life members making the total strength of the branch to 68. The meeting expressed deep shock over the sudden demise of our member Shri R S Bhatia, retired SE Electrical from Jammu on 4th March 2019 at a young age of 65 years. The members stood in silence for two minutes to pay homage to the departed soul. Shri J C Gupta, Branch Secretary briefed the members on the various issues. The members expressed their resentment over non clearance of their medical bills although it was gathered that funds have been allotted to the circle for clearance of all medical claims both with vouchers and without vouchers and also for indoor treatment. A new CGHS dispensary has been opened at Ambala after closing of P & T Dispensary. The Branch Secretary briefed the members about the CGHS facilities, procedure of becoming member of CGHS and replied to the various queries raised by the members. The meeting was followed by lunch and presentation of vote of thanks to the members.

AIBSNLREA, KOLHAPUR BRANCH HOLD QUARTERLY GB MEETING: Kolhapur Branch of AIBSNLREA held a quarterly GB Meeting on 7th April, 2019 with Shri GV Nanjangud, Vice-President on the Chair. Meeting started with prayer. 75 members were present and 7 new members joined the Association. President welcomed all the Members. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of Late Dr. Shivkumat Swamiji of Tumkur Karnataka, Shri George Fernandes, a Great Trade Union leader and former Union Minister and S/Shri DA Aironi, NC Jain, Org. Secretary of State Body. The house also mourned the demise of wife of Shri HG Joshi in February last. All the new members introduced themselves and were welcomed by the President and Secretary with presentation of flowers. Branch Secretary Shri D K Joshi first greeted all the members on the eve of New Year Day Ugadi Padava. Then he reported the status of the 3rd PRC implementation by the DOT after the three-day strike by some unions and associations. He elaborated the action taken by these Unions/Associations-unions and their meetings with Minister and others, and the result thereof. He maintained that revision of pension after revision of Pay Scales of working Employees cannot be denied. But at this moment, we need to wait and watch. He added that BSNL CO has taken action to clear payment of majority of the pending Medical Bills of retired employees. He further said that rest of the pending bills are likely to be cleared in April. He said

our Associations has also sent some proposals for review of BSNLMRS, but no action has so far been taken by BSNL CO. Regarding the status of our PCAT case was also informed the next hearing will be on 24th of April 2019. Regarding other issues like fixation of pension of some pensioners without an increment given on promotion under EPP, case of paying due annual increment to those who complete one full year of service but not were not in service on the day of issue of increment, he said that these are still under examination in DOT. Then Shri SG Kanade, a Sr. Member, gave a brief spiritual discourse on 'MIND'. Shri PS Kulkarni and Mrs. Nadagouda PP shared their experience on their recent short trip to Dandeli.

Thereafter, S/Shri Sandeep Swamy and Hemant, representatives from Quality Investment, Kolhapur, briefed the participants with detailed brochures on Sr. Citizens Tax Gain Schemes for saving the Tax for 2019-20 under some Mutual Funds. They also replied to the queries raised by the members.

The Branch Secretary informed the House that the Lunch for the day has been sponsored by Shri A D Joshi from Sangli on the happy occasion of his Daughters marriage solemnized in January. All the members blessed the couple and thanked him. Shri PS Kulkarni Asst. Secretary, while presenting Vote of Thanks informed the house that a short trip is being arranged in rainy season this year and requested all to participate.

GB MEETING OF VADODARA BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD: Quarterly General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Vadodara branch was held at 10.30 of 04-04-2019 at Hotel Utsav with Branch President Shri Patel on chair. He welcomed all the members and requested them to freely express their views and suggestions on the issues. Branch Secretary Shri R T Shah then briefed the House on all current issues and activities of the Branch. Non-payment of medical claims remained as an important issue in the meeting. Discussions were also held regarding increasing membership of the Association. The meeting with presentation of Vote of Thanks by Vice President Shri N G Desai. This was followed by lunch.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING APRIL, 2019

Ambala Branch (Haryana State) has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 18.04.2019 as CHQ quota for two new Life Members.

East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees nine thousand (Rs. 9000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 10.04.2019 as donation (Rs. 7000/-) on receiving pension arrears and contribution (Rs 2000/-) to seek legal remedy on pay/pension arrears collected from three members.

Lucknow Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 08.04.2019 as CHQ quota for 1 new Life Member.

-----*Edited and published by Shri S Basu, General Secretary, AIBSNLREA*-----