



Editorial

MIGRATION TO SAMPANN

CCAAs throughout the country have started taking initiatives for migration of pre-rollout BSNL pensioners to the SAMPANN, the Centralised Pension Management System (CPMS) of Department of Telecommunications. They propose to migrate pensioners progressively bank by bank and in the process have called for Know Your Pensioner form to be submitted by these pensioners along with supportive documents like copy of PPO, Aadhaar card and PAN card. One CCA has asked for copy of Aadhaar card of spouse in addition, apparently with a view to faster approval of Family Pension in the unfortunate event of demise of the pensioner. This activity by the CCAs have raised some questions and apprehensions in the minds of some pensioners.

In August 2017, DoT, while communicating its intent to take over the pension disbursement function from the Banks and Post Offices, issued certain instructions to all its CCAs. Alarmed by this sudden turn of event without any groundwork by DOT, AIBSNLREA protested against the move. Our objection had been mostly on the following counts: capability of staff employed in CCA offices in handling the new system; non-existence of any

Grievance redressal mechanism in CCA Offices; pensioners/family pensioners at their old age cannot travel long distances to visit CCA Offices to get their grievances resolved; lack of proper office accommodation for CCAs and absence of required infrastructure; absence of any evolved mechanism to issue monthly Pension Slips intimating details of basic pension, dearness allowance, income tax deducted, arrears etc through SMS/e-mail to the pensioners/family pensioners; non-evolving of any arrangement to ensure issue of Form-16 to the pensioners/family pensioners who are spread over a vast geographical area on time and non-addressing the issue of submission of Annual Life Certificate by the pensioners/family pensioners who cannot visit CCA Offices for this purpose.

Our above apprehensions were not found misplaced when DOT was found taking long time to try addressing the above issues like release of monthly Pension Slips, issue of Form-16 and submission of Annual Life Certificates etc. It was claimed that CPMS implementation will benefit the pensioners in the following ways: (1) Direct transfer of pension by the CCA to the pensioner's bank account through CPMS will eliminate the delay caused by

involvement of the CPPC (2) It will eliminate the need for transfer of pension cases from one Circle to another. This in turn will ensure that pensioners drawing pension in a bank located in another state (different from where he retired) start getting pension without any time-lag. (3) Any revision in pension will get effected without delay. Calculation and payment of arrear will take place automatically once the pension is revised. (4) The time-lag between change in Dearness Relief (DR) and its payment will be minimized as latest DR rates will be updated centrally. (5) Age-linked enhancement of pension will take place on attaining the designated age. (6) The pensioner will be able to access and take print-out of details of pension payment by logging into CPMS with the login ID provided to the pensioner. (7) TDS and Form-16 will be provided by the CCA without any intervention from the pensioner. On the issue of submission of Life Certificate, we were told that, it 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. We have the satisfaction that we could get DOT to wake up from its slumber and to attend to many of the concerns that we raised.

After official launch of SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) in December 2018 by the Prime Minister, pensioners retiring from February 2019 onwards came under SAMPANN. By and large there have been no major issues reported on the functioning, except for a few issues like insufficient details in pension slip, delay in sanction of family pension and subsequent payment of arrears and flaws in Grievance redressal mechanism.

But it is to be seen, whether the system will be able to handle the extra load to be generated after all pensioners come under SAMPANN. We will have to ensure that the pensioners are not unduly harassed in the name of collecting details/documents for migration to SAMPANN. We are analysing the different approaches by different CCAs and will take up with the concerned authorities for smooth migration to SAMPANN. ●



Important Development of the Month

Shri V P Arya, AGS, AIBSNLREA has been visiting BSNL CO a number of times and pursuing the issue of non-release of the withheld amount of ex-gratia, non-grant of time bound upgradation from E4 to E5 and from E5 to E6 and also releasing of gratuity and CVP in view of quashing of chargesheet by Hon'ble CAT Bangalore and on attaining the age of 60 years – case of Shri B M Nyamati Retd CAO, Bangalore Telecom District. Now, AGM (Admin-F) has informed us that letter requesting grant of VC has been

received from Karnataka Circle and has been sent to CVO for obtaining clearance. We hope the issue will be resolved shortly and Final retirement order will be issued. CHQ will pursue the case till withheld ex-gratia is released and time bound upgradations are granted from the due dates.



Issues taken up

25.05.2022: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (PENSION) DoP&PW ON DELAY BY DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN EXTENDING THE CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS TO THE JTOS QUALIFIED IN TES GROUP B QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS AND WERE PROMOTED TO DE/AGM GRADE DURING THEIR SERVICE IN DOT PRIOR TO 01.10.2000, BASED ON REVISED SENIORITY AS PER THE DIRECTIONS OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN CA NO.4389 OF 2010:

AIBSNLREA has now sought the intervention of Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW, requesting him to advise DoT to conduct review DPC in respect of the promotion orders issued during the DoT period, i.e., before formation of BSNL on 01.10.2000, at the earliest and without further delay. [View the letter](#)

21.05.2022: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CCA MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE ON DELAY IN RE-FIXATION OF PENSION OF SHRI V GANAPATHIRAMAN RETD DGM:

AIBSNLREA has written to the CCA Maharashtra Circle regarding delay in re-fixation of pension of Shri V Ganapathiraman, Retd DGM, in order to remove the anomaly in pension of absorbed BSNL employees who retired within the period of 10 months from 01.10.2000, pointing out that in spite of the affected pensioner representing to CCA Maharashtra ever since DoT issued instructions on the matter on 07.10.2021, there has been no response. [View the letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

26.05.2022: MINUTES OF 32ND MEETING OF SCOVA:

DoP&PW has circulated the minutes of the 32nd Meeting of SCOVA (Standing Committee Of Voluntary Agencies). The item requesting Payment of DA/DR arrears frozen for 18 months from 1.1.2020 to 30.06.2021 has been closed with the reply from Joint Secretary, DoE that decision to freeze DA and DR was taken in the context of Covid-19 pandemic so as to ease pressure on Government finances. 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. He has also informed that the proposal to increase the amount of FMA is under consideration, financial implications are being worked out and a reference will be made to DoE shortly. [View the Minutes](#)

14.05.2022: REMOVAL OF SIXTY FOUR HEALTH CARE ORGANISATIONS EMPANELLED UNDER CGHS DELHI NCR FROM LIST OF EMPANELLED ORGANISATIONS UNDER CGHS: Hospital empanelment Cell of DG CGHS has issued orders removing 64 HCOs from the list of empanelled organisations under CGHS Delhi for non-compliance with its directions for onboarding NHA IT platform for uploading the bills pertaining to pensioner CGHS beneficiaries in a paperless environment within the stipulated time. [View the order](#)



RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

26.05.2022: DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) DoP&PW TO DOT REQUESTING EXPEDITIOUS RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF EXTENDING THE CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS TO THE JTOS QUALIFIED IN TES GROUP B QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS AND WERE PROMOTED TO DE/AGM GRADE DURING THEIR SERVICE IN DOT PRIOR TO 01.10.2000, BASED ON REVISED SENIORITY AS PER THE DIRECTIONS OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN CA NO.4389 OF 2010:

Immediately after receipt of our letter dated 25.05.2022 on the matter, DoP&PW has forwarded our email along with the letter, requesting DoT "to look into the matter and resolve the same expeditiously as per extant rules in a time bound manner under intimation to this department and the concerned pensioner about the action taken." [View the email](#)

10.05.2022: DOPPW RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 12.01.2022 SUGGESTING IMPROVEMENTS IN CPENGRAMS:

AIBSNLREA vide its letter dated 12.01.2022 addressed to the Secretary (Pension) DoP&PW had suggested improvements in CPENGRAMS based on experiences of shortcomings and lack of real monitoring of resolution of grievances, giving details of the grievances which were closed with irrelevant, immaterial and senseless responses. DoP&PW after keeping the status 'under process' for more than four months, has now replied that "Suggestions noted". We believe that the suggestions will be implemented in due course. [View the DoP&PW response](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

30.05.2022: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA THANJAVUR BA BRANCH HELD:

Annual General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Thanjavur BA Branch was held under the Presidentship of Shri.R.KRISHNARAO, District President on 28.05.2022. Silence was observed in remembrance of two members whom we had lost in their fight against COVID-19. Secretary informed the meeting that 18 new members have joined recently. Twenty one members attended the meeting. The present status of the life of the retired executives, Pension revision, Non payment / Delay in medical bill / FMA payment, Issues

pertaining to migration to CGHS were discussed. Members expressed hope that the proposed State level organisation will make a sincere effort in dealing with all issues of the pensioners. Two more new members joined AIBSNLREA on the day of the meeting. New office bearers were elected unanimously. [View the list of office bearers](#)

22.05.2022: NEW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA INAUGURATED AT AGRA:

AIBSNLREA Agra Branch was inaugurated on 20.05.2022 in a meeting held at Metro Hotel, Sanjay Place, Agra under the Presidentship of Shri M S Chauhan. Shri R S Arora, State Secretary was the Chief Guest and apprised the members about various activities being taken up at CHQ and State levels. Other issues of BSNL pensioners were also discussed. Office bearers were elected unanimously. Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. A K Dubey, the Secretary of the Branch. [View the list of office bearers](#)

11.05.2022: AGB MEETING OF VARANASAI BRANCH (UP STATE) HELD:

Varanasi Branch of AIBSNLREA held its Annual General Body Meeting on 10.05.2022 at CTO Compound, Varanasi under the presidentship of Shri P M Ansari. State Secretary Shri R S Arora addressed the members. Thereafter, election of new Office Bearers of the Branch was conducted by Shri Benchu Prasad. [View the list of new office bearers](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING MAY 2022

Thanjavur/Kumbakonam Branch (Tamilnadu State) deposited Rupees one thousand six hundred (Rs.1600/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 26.05.2022 as CHQ Quota for 8 new Life Members.

Thanjavur/Kumbakonam Branch (Tamilnadu State) deposited Rupees two thousand (Rs.2000/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 26.05.2022 as CHQ Quota for 10 new Life Members.

Indore Branch (Madhya Pradesh State) deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs.200/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 12.05.2022 as CHQ Quota for 1 new Life Member.

Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) deposited Rupees one thousand four hundred (Rs.1400/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 10.05.2022 as CHQ Quota for 7 new Life Members.

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