



## Editorial

### TIME TO PUSH HARD

**T**he first step towards achieving anything is believing that it is possible and believing in ourselves. When the DPE issued orders on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 on implementation of the Government decisions on the recommendations of 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC stipulating stringent 'affordable' clause for pay revision by CPSEs, most of the BSNL employees and their unions and associations lost all hope of pay revision of BSNL employees and executives. A few associations however proposed relaxing the affordability clause for BSNL.

BSNL then sent a proposal to DoT for revision of pay scales of Board level and below Board level executives with 15% fitment benefit w.e.f. 01.01.2017 by relaxing the affordability criteria, elaborating the justifications for such relaxation. Some of the justifications cited by BSNL were, that "BSNL was formed as independent Government company to perform specific agenda of the Government and no budgetary support is provided by the Government; that BSNL has a socio-economic importance for the nation as it fulfils the social obligations of the Government by providing telecom services in difficult terrains, commercially unviable areas and far-flung areas of the country. It has

always stood behind its countrymen during the time of emergencies and natural calamity setting examples; that BSNL builds and maintains infrastructure for implementing important Govt. projects such as Bharat-net, Network for Spectrum, LWE and comprehensive telecom development plan for North-Eastern states; that BSNL plays a pivotal role as a sector regulator by deciding the market's commercial in ultra-high competition scenario and low service/product cost; that BSNL is in the turnaround phase and it is important and desirable to keep the morale of the employees high and to avoid discontent; that more than 95% DoT officers got pay revised under the 7th CPC and they would find difficult times for managing the employees whose expectation of 3rd PRC implementation is not met; that the additional financial burden on 3rd PRC implementation will be Rs.6485 crores in FY 2018-19 and Rs.2980 crores from FY 2029-20 onwards." DoT had forwarded this proposal on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 to the DPE requesting it to examine the proposal and to offer their comments as to whether the affordability criteria be relaxed for implementing pay scale revision in BSNL as per 3rd PRC.

**D**PE promptly clarified vide its reply dated 18.04.2018, that this would “require approval of Cabinet for which DOT may examine the issue at its end for necessary action”. The service associations and unions failed to take advantage of these developments and even let go an opportunity for clinching pay revision with 5% fitment as offered by DoT in December 2018. Then they called 3 days strike which was said to be “the direct result of the non-implementation of the assurances given by the Hon’ble MoS(C), in the meeting held on 03.12.2018.” While the first strike demand was “Implementation of 3<sup>rd</sup> Pay Revision with 15% fitment”, the third demand said “Implement assurance of MOS(C) for delinking pension revision from pay revision. Revise pension of BSNL retirees w.e.f. 01.01.2017.” This showed their lack of confidence in getting the issue of pay revision resolved, since in case Pay revision was achieved there was no need for the third demand. This lack of self-belief on the part of the leadership and the fact that the strike ended without any agreement or any progress in the issues, resulted in frustration and loss of faith in the unions and associations amidst the BSNL employees.

**S**ubsequent developments like purging of 80000 employees under BSNL VRS 2019 and COVID-19 situation had put the pay revision issue in the back burner. In October 2021, talks were revived and the unions and associations agreed for pay revision with 0% fitment but subsequently backtracked in view of

large scale resentment among the members. There had been a lull for more than a year and only recently renewed activities of the unions and associations are visible, with pay revision as per 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC as one of the demands.

**A**IBSNLREA has been repeatedly highlighting with all concerned including the Prime Minister of India, the issue of BSNL being forced to pay pension contribution on the maximum of the pay scales, while DoP&T had issued orders as early as in November 2009 for pension contribution on the existing basic pay, w.e.f. 1.1.2006. This continues to remain a major stumbling block, not only partly standing in the way of affordability but also creating apprehensions on the expenditure involved while moving to revised pay scales with higher maximum. BSNL had been paying an average of Rs.700 crores in excess of actual contribution due against pension contribution every year since 2006 till January 2020. The amount would have come down after VRS, yet this is totally an unwarranted drain on BSNL’s resources.

**T**he DoP&T OM dated 19.11.2009, modifying the rate of pension contribution from ‘based on maximum of pay scale’ to ‘existing basic pay’ was issued after concurrence and justification by DoE that ‘no government servant is likely to remain in a particular grade for more than 10 years’. BSNL employees also do not remain in the same scale for more than 5/8 years and the justification advanced by DoE absolutely holds good for BSNL absorbed employees too.

DoP&PW had long back in the year 2013 concurred with a GoM decision to extend this methodology to MTNL/BSNL employees w.e.f. 1.1.2006. But Cabinet approval for the same was put on hold in the last minute. Later while extending the benefit of Rule 37A for MTNL employees, a proposal for change in methodology in pension contribution - as per FR-116 upto 31.12.2005 on the maximum of the IDA pay scales and with effect from 01.01.2006 on the actual pay drawn in the IDA pay scales, was mooted but again it was dropped before final approval of the Cabinet. Later in 2019, DoE had sought for some clarifications like effective date for proposed change, annual financial implication on the current and the proposed rates, justification for making DoP&T order meant for CDA pattern pay scale, applicable for IDA pattern, etc. DoT had in turn asked BSNL to clarify the points raised by DoE. According to information obtained under RTI in November 2022, DoT was awaiting reply from BSNL. AIBSNLREA took up the matter with BSNL

immediately. BSNL had thanked us for taking up the issue and had informed us that once decision is taken the same will be conveyed. We are yet to be informed of any decision. The point is that if the Government is convinced to allow BSNL also to pay pension contribution on the existing basic pay, BSNL will not only save huge money but also will be liable to get a whopping amount as refund of excess pension contribution paid by BSNL.

**W**hile AIBSNLREA will continue to take up this issue with all concerned, the onus lies with the serving employees' unions and associations, who need to believe from the depth of their hearts that pay revision is possible and sorting out important issues like pension contribution on actual basic pay instead of maximum of pay scale will have great significance in resolution of the issue of pay revision as per 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC guidelines. It is the time to push hard when the thought of giving up takes over the mind. Often success will be around the corner. ♥



## Important Developments of the Month

- AGSs AIBSNLREA Shri V P Arya and Shri Rakesh Sethi visited BSNL Corporate Office on 12.05.2023 and met officers/officials in Personnel, SEA and Establishment Sections to follow up some individual grievances. In case of Shri B M Nyamati and Shri P S Prasad, files are being put up for consideration. In case of Shri H S Sutaria we are told that we have to wait for some time. We will have to discuss the case further with DoT. The grievance of Shri Rajpal Singh was discussed and a copy of AIBSNLREA letter has been provided for examination. The issue of conducting of Review DPCs in respect of DE promotions ordered during DoT period based on revised seniority of TES Group B as per Supreme Court Judgement was also discussed. In respect of wrongly showing the

amount reimbursed towards one-time contribution to CGHS as taxable income, we were told that inputs from our latest letter on the subject will be duly considered.

- AIBSNLREA CHQ had arranged for a virtual meeting with the State Secretaries on 03.05.2023, in order to listen to their views and suggestions regarding functioning of CHQ. CHQ President Shri V Chinnappiah presided over the meeting and welcomed the participants. State Secretaries or their representatives from most of the State organisations participated in the meeting. GS explained that this was an informal meeting intended to have interactions with State Secretaries in order to strengthen the organisation and improve the way of working of CHQ. CHQ Organising Secretaries and AGS at Delhi were present. All the State Secretaries expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the CHQ and a few suggestions were made for improvement. A detailed discussion on efforts to increase membership and formation of new branches, issues to be taken up at CHQ level and status of some common issues took place. GS then summed up the discussions and said such meetings will be conducted in future too, as and when required. The meeting went on for 100 minutes and was concluded after the CHQ President conveyed his appreciation and thankfulness to the participants.
- A virtual meeting of CHQ Office bearers was held on 01.05.2023, under the Presidentship of CHQ President Shri V.Chinnappiah. All the CHQ office bearers briefed about the progress made by them in the organisational task assigned and expressed their determination to continue their efforts. GS appreciated the office bearers for their involvement and commitment. He briefed about the planned State Secretaries' meet on 03.05.2023. Some useful suggestions from the CHQ office bearers were duly agreed upon by the meeting. As requested by some office bearers, GS briefed the present status of pension revision and said our clear understanding of the issue that pension revision follows pay revision will be finally proved to be correct. President expressed satisfaction over the meeting having been productive, thanked the participants and closed the meeting.
- CBDT vide its Gazette Notification dated 24th May 2023 has raised the exemption limit on leave encashment at the time of retirement, whether superannuation or otherwise, to Rs.25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five lakhs) under sub-clause (ii) of clause (10AA) of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The notification shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 1st day of April 2023.



## Issues taken up

### **29.05.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SR.GENERAL MANAGER (ADMIN) BSNL CO ON EMPANELMENT OF HOSPITALS UNDER BSNLMRS:**

Referring to BSNL letter dated 26.04.2023 on the subject urging the Circles/SSAs/BAs to take lead and pursue with sales team/representatives of the hospitals in their locality to maximise number of empanelled hospitals under BSNL MRS, with the aim to empanel at least one reputed hospital in every BA on cashless/credit basis, AIBSNLREA has written to the Sr.GM

(Admin) BSNL CO requesting that the instructions issued be reiterated and enforced with all seriousness without allowing the Circles to sit on the instructions, so that the plight of BSNL pensioners availing medical services under BSNL MRS is halted once for all. [View the letter](#)

**24.05.2023: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO THE CVO BSNL REQUESTING EXPEDITIOUS FINAL DECISION IN THE DISCIPLINARY CASE INITIATED AGAINST SHRI A.G. KAMALWAR, RETIRED DE, BHANDARA (HRMS NO. 197506943) UNDER BA CHANDRAPUR OF MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE, BSNL:**

Citing a DoT response on 10.01.2023 to our earlier letter on the issue informing us that "REQUEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO CVO BSNL FOR FINAL DECISION IN THE CASE", AIBSNLREA has again to take the final decision in this particular long pending disciplinary case at the earliest and convey the same to all concerned for further action. [View the letter](#)

**19.05.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CGCA, NEW DELHI ON ISSUE OF PENSIONERS ID CARD TO BSNL PENSIONERS IN REVISED FORMAT, SUGGESTING TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCESS:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Controller General of Communication Accounts to the abnormal delay in the process of issuing ID card in revised format due to shortage of staff and infrastructure in CCAs offices and the process of printing, laminating and despatching the Pensioner ID cards to the concerned pensioners and has suggested following the mechanism successfully implemented by CGHS wherein the beneficiaries are able to download the CGHS card, get it printed and laminated on their own. [View the letter](#)

**11.05.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY, EXPENDITURE, DOE REQUESTING ISSUE OF COMMON ORDER EXTENDING THE BENEFIT TO ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES IN VIEW OF PCAT ORDERS ALLOWING THE BENEFIT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES ON ACTUAL BASIS W.E.F. 1.1.1996 FOR THE STAFF BELONGING TO THE ORGANISED ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn attention of Secretary (Expenditure), Government of India to the recent PCAT New Delhi orders dated 21st March 2023 in OA No.2544/2015, wherein it has held 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." PCAT New Delhi has further observed 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 has since requested him to take a compassionate view on this issue and cause 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. [View the letter](#)

**08.05.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL ON THE ISSUE OF GRANT OF FINANCIAL UPGRADATION TO E-6 IDA SCALE TO SHRI RAJPAL SINGH, RETD SE (CIVIL), AMBALA:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Director (HR) BSNL to an atypical case of denial of financial upgradation to E6 IDA pay scale to Shri Rajpal Singh, now Retd SE (Civil), Ambala, citing clarifications issued by BSNL that those in Regular DE/EE grade are not eligible for upgradation to E6 pay scale under EPP 2007, although he has completed 5 years' service in

E5 pay scale. This has resulted in an anomaly whereby his juniors who did not get regular promotion to EE grade got financial upgradation to E6 scale while Shri Rajpal Singh continued in E5 pay scale. AIBSNLREA has requested him to get the issue examined specially and specifically, without rejecting it in a routine manner and to render justice to Shri Rajpal Singh by granting him the upgradation to E6 pay scale on his completing 5 years in E5 pay scale. [View the letter](#)

**05.05.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO GENERAL MANAGER (TAXATION) BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE REQUESTING HIM TO REVISIT THE POINTS ADVANCED BY HIM FOR TREATING REIMBURSEMENT OF ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION TO CGHS AS TAXABLE:**

While thanking the Sr.GM (Txn) for his prompt response, AIBSNLREA has written to him that "We are sorry to say that there appears to be still some confusion with the justification advanced for the decision to treat the amount reimbursed towards one-time contribution made to CGHS as taxable income" and requesting him "to appreciate the fact that several Medical Insurance companies provide options for one-time subscription too, along with the yearly premium. CGHS too provides for two options, one with yearly contribution and the other one with life-time contribution. Just because of the provision of one-time contribution, CGHS contribution cannot be differently treated from insurance premium." AIBSNLREA has again requested him to get the matter re-examined and orders passed for treating the reimbursement of one-time CGHS contribution as tax free perquisite. [View the letter](#)

**05.05.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DG CGHS SUBMITTING SUGGESTIONS FOR PROVIDING ACCESSIBLE MEDICAL CARE FOR CGHS BENEFICIARIES RESIDING IN NON-CGHS AREAS:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of DG CGHS to the fact that a huge number of BSNL retirees have migrated to CGHS in the recent past, including those residing in non-CGHS areas. Though the option for availing Fixed Medical Allowance is available to the CGHS beneficiaries residing in non-CGHS areas, they are still in a fix when indoor treatment becomes unavoidable. Many of them would opt for outdoor treatment in lieu of FMA, in CGHS approved hospitals. AIBSNLREA has therefore submitted suggestions including opening of CGHS Wellness Centres in every District Headquarters, though it will be a long-drawn process. [View the letter](#)

**03.05.2023: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO SR.GENERAL MANAGER (PERS) BSNL CO REGARDING THE ISSUE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ORDERS OF SUPREME COURT OF INDIA IN CA NO. 4389 OF 2010 - HOLDING OF REVIEW DPCS FOR PROMOTION TO DE GRADE BASED ON THE REVISED SENIORITY LISTS OF TES GROUP B IN RESPECT OF DE PROMOTIONS ORDERED BY DOT PRIOR TO FORMATION OF BSNL AND EXTENDING THE CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS:**

AIBSNLREA has again written to Sr. General Manager (Pers) pointing out that our request in the earlier letter was specifically about conducting of review DPCs in respect of all the DPCs for promotion to DE grade held during DoT period. Whenever we take up the matter with DoT, we are told that all records/files had been handed over to BSNL after its formation and are available with BSNL and hence BSNL only needs to take action on this matter. We understand that searching through the voluminous documents to locate the DE promotion orders issued during DoT period will be difficult, but it is not an impossible task. AIBSNLREA has requested again requested that action may be caused to be initiated for conducting of

review DPCs in respect of all the DPCs for promotion to DE grade held during DoT period. [View the letter](#)



## GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

### **25.05.2023: CBDT NOTIFIES RAISING OF EXEMPTION LIMIT ON LEAVE ENCASHMENT ON RETIREMENT:**

CBDT vide its Gazette Notification dated 24th May 2023 has raised the exemption limit on leave encashment at the time of retirement, whether superannuation or otherwise, to Rs.25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five lakhs) under sub-clause (ii) of clause (10AA) of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The notification shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 1st day of April 2023. [View the Notification](#)

### **20.05.2023: CASHLESS TREATMENT FOR CGHS BENEFICIARIES NOW AVAILABLE AT 6 AIIMS:**

Cashless treatment facilities will now be available to all CGHS beneficiaries (serving and pensioners) at 6 AIIMS located at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Jodhpur, Raipur and Rishikesh. This significant decision was taken today, as Memorandum of Agreement were signed between these six AIIMS and CGHS, Union Health Ministry in the presence of Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary. In the near future the AIIMS institutions established in New Delhi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh and Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry will be incorporated in this agreement. It may be recalled that AIBSNLREA had taken up the issue with DG CGHS vide its letter dated 15th March 2023, while drawing his attention to the difficulties faced by CGHS beneficiaries of Jodhpur, Rajasthan, suggesting that the matter be taken up with the Ministry to extend cashless treatment facility by AIIMS Jaipur for CGHS beneficiaries of Rajasthan. [View the PIB Press Release](#)

### **16.05.2023: MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE ISSUES GUIDELINES REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT OF CONTINUOUS SUBCUTANEOUS INSULIN INFUSION (CSII) PUMP THERAPY UNDER CGHS/CS(MA) RULES, 1944:**

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide its OM No.S11030/120/2022-EHS dated 16.05.2023 has issued Guidelines regarding reimbursement of Continuous Subcutaneous Insulin Infusion (CSII) Pump Therapy under CGHS/CS(MA) Rules, 1944, to patients with Type-I Diabetes for more than 2 years, prescribing pre-requisites and the composition of a committee for examining requests on case to case basis. Regular 3 month follow ups, regular self-monitoring of blood glucose and HbA1C test every 3 months will be criteria for extension of the facility after initial approval for one year. Ceiling rate for basic version of insulin pump will be Rs.2 lakhs and for sensor-augmented insulin pump it will be Rs.3 Lakhs. [View the MoH&FW OM](#)

### **08.05.2023: SUBMISSION OF MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS BY CGHS PENSIONERS IN THE CITY WHERE TREATMENT WAS TAKEN:**

DG CGHS vide its OM No.Z 15025/2/2023/DIR/CGHS dated 8th May 2023 has stated that CGHS pensioner beneficiaries (principal card holders) are now permitted to submit Medical Reimbursement Claims to the CGHS of the city where treatment was taken. However the

option to submit the MRC at the CGHS Wellness Centre where the card is registered shall remain unchanged. [View the DG CGHS letter](#)

**02.05.2023: BSNL ISSUES CLARIFICATION ON SUBMISSION OF OPTION BY RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEE FOR OUTDOOR CLAIM:**

BSNL vide its letter No.BSNLCO-ADMN/45/1/2021-ADMN dated 02.05.2023 has clarified again that the retired employees need not give option every year and the option once given shall remain valid for subsequent years till it is changed by the retired employee. [View the BSNL letter](#)

**02.05.2023: DG CGHS REITERATES ITS EARLIER ORDERS ON VALIDITY OF CGHS CARD IN ANY WELLNESS CENTRE IN INDIA:**

DG CGHS vide its OM No.Z 15025/1/2023/DIR/CGHS dated 1st May 2023 has reiterated the contents of its earlier order dated 17th December 2012 that CGHS card is valid in any Wellness Centre in India, medicines shall be issued for upto 3 months in case of chronic illnesses and referral for treatment from private empanelled hospitals shall be issued from any CGHS Wellness Centre. [View the DG CGHS OM](#)

**RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON  
AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS**



**10.05.2023: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 07.04.2023 SUGGESTING RE-OPENING OF THE SECOND CGHS WELLNESS CENTRE IN VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH:**

AIBSNLREA vide its letter dated 07.04.2023 addressed to the DG CGHS had suggested re-opening of the second CGHS Wellness Centre in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh located at the heart of the city which was closed following resignation of the Medical Officer in September 2021. The staff members were transferred to other places and the building was vacated. The closure was said to be temporary, till alternate building is located. AD CGHS Allahabad has now replied that "It is to bring to your notice that we are still in search of suitable building for reopening of 2nd Wellness Center at Varanasi. As soon as, the accommodation is finalized, the functioning of the Wellness center will be started" [View the CGHS response](#)

**09.05.2023: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 22.03.2023 SUGGESTING INCREASING FACILITY OF AYURVEDIC/HOMEOPATHIC/UNANI AND OTHER SUCH TRADITIONAL/HOLISTIC MEDICINE IN CGHS WELLNESS CENTRES:**

AIBSNLREA vide its letter dated 22.03.2023 addressed to the DG CGHS had suggested increasing facility of Ayurvedic/Homeopathic/Unani and other such traditional/holistic medicine in CGHS Wellness Centres. Facility of ayurvedic and other traditional form of medicines and Homeopathic treatment may be provided on rotating basis once or twice a week and even during fixed hours in more Wellness Centres by utilising the available medical practitioners in the system. Pointing out to DG CGHS OM vide F.No.25-01/2018/CGHS/JD AYUSH dated 20th November 2020 which had conveyed the decision to start empanelment of private Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy Day Care Therapy Centres on pilot basis for a period



of one year in Delhi/NCR Region, along with conditions for such treatment and that subsequently 16 Hospitals/Centres were notified as CGHS empanelled Day Care Therapy Hospital/Centers till 30.03.2022, AIBSNLREA had requested that "As more than 2 years have passed, CGHS Directorate will have by now analysed the utility of the arrangement. Based on the study, similar facility of empanelled private Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy Day Care Therapy Centres may be extended to other metropolitan cities viz Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, as next step." In response, CGHS has stated that "Necessary analysis / study regarding utility of AYUSH Private Day Care Centres has been completed and the empanelment of these centres is under process." [View the CGHS response](#)



## BRANCHES IN ACTION

### **22.05.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AMBALA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE)**

#### **HELD:**

A general body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 20th May 2023 in Mini Party Hall of Central Phoenix Club Ambala under the Chairmanship of Shri K L Gakhar. 28 members of the Branch attended the meeting. After the welcome address by Shri K L Gakhar, Shri S. K Bindal, Branch Secretary briefed the members on the various issues concerning the BSNL pensioners. Shri S K Aggarwal CHQ Organising Secy (North) also spoke and briefed the members on status of Pension revision as per 3rd PRC and shifting of Ambala CGHS wellness centre from its present inaccessible location to some other suitable building. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks and all the members enjoyed the lunch.

### **21.05.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THANJAVUR BRANCH (TAMILNADU STATE) HELD:**

A General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Thanjavur BA Branch was conducted under the Presidentship of Shri E.Rajasekaran, Branch President on 20.05.2023. Shri S.Arockiasamy welcomed all to the meeting. Around 20 members attended the meeting. Almost all the members offered their valuable suggestions and comments on issues faced by the pensioners. Suggestions on Health care, importance of minimum health checkups, Yoga, Tips to have a healthy and happy retired life were the highlights-enjoyed by one and all. Of course, the present status of Pay / Pension revision, problems being faced in SAMPANN, Inordinate delay in sanction of CGHS FMA, difficulties in updating DLC, correction of errors in SAMPANN, pending BSNL payments were also discussed. State Secretary Shri M.S.Radhakrishnan in his speech covered all the issues discussed. It was decided to strengthen our organisation by adding new members with the efforts of all members. Shri Susai Michael and Shri R.Ramanathan donated liberally to the branch. Shri P.R.Sethuraman thanked all for making the GB a successful one.

### **21.05.2023: TIRUNELVELI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA (TAMILNADU STATE) HELD ITS ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

The AGB meeting of AIBSNLREA, Tirunelveli Branch was conducted on 18.05.2023 at Tirunelveli under the Presidentship of Shri SSA Samsu Mohideen, Branch President. Shri S Ganapathy paid homage to the departed member Smt Gnanajoathy and other state and central leaders and dignitaries. Shri S. Arumugam District Secretary welcomed the gathering. The District President in his presidential address spoke about the key issues concerning the

pensioners. Shri M S Radhakrishnan, State Secretary in his special address explained about the resolutions passed in AIC Kolkata. He also spoke on present status of pension revision to BSNL / MTNL pensioners, the history behind pension revision from 5th CPC onwards, difficulties faced by the BSNL pensioners on Sampaan migration and also on available facilities at CGHS wellness centers. He appealed all members to visit our CHQ website periodically and read e journal without fail to enhance our knowledge on present issues of BSNL pensioners. He concluded his address with an appeal to increase the membership of the branch. His comprehensive speech on all important subjects was appreciated by all members. [View the list of new office bearers](#)

#### **01.05.2023: AIBSNLREA KURUKSHETRA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD:**

A General Body Meeting of Kurukshetra branch (Haryana State) was held on 26th April 2023 at 11 AM in Haryana Tourism Yatri Niwas Kurukshetra. 35 members were present including 7 from Kaithal. At the outset, the branch secretary Shri Rajvir Singh Chaudhary welcomed the members and informed that the younger brother of our president Shri S K Verma, had expired a few days back. The House condoled the untimely death by observing two minutes' silence and expressed their sympathy with Shri Verma's family. In the absence of the President, Shri S P Gupta presided over the meeting. Shri JOGI RAM State Secretary who is away in Canada attended the meeting online. Shri D S Sandhu senior member of the branch briefed the house in detail about various issues delt by the Association at CHQ level . The members appreciated the dedication and zeal with which the new General Secretary Shri RRB is pursuing the issues which former GS Shri Basuji had initiated. Shri Bhagwan Dass and Shri J N Vema informed that their medical reimbursement bills are not paid by BSNL for more than four years inspite of their best efforts even after having personal meeting the GMTD Karnal. The branch secretary Shri Rajvir Chaudhary said that he would soon take up the case with GS CHQ for its early resolution. Shri Yogesh Sharma gave useful tips to the members for maintaining good health and fitness. He particularly emphasized about having positive attitude, nutritious diet and regular exercise among other things. Shri Yogesh Sharma, Shri ML Arya and Shri J N Verma entertained the audience with sweet songs. The meeting ended with vote of thanks followed by sumptuous lunch. .

#### **01.05.2023: AIBSNLREA YAMUNANAGAR BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD:**

A general body meeting of AIBSNLREA Yamunanagar (Haryana State) branch was held on 26.04.2023 at Gopal Restaurant Yamunanagar. Shri MCK Mittal, Branch President, presided over the meeting. At the very outset, the house observed two minutes' silence in memory of our departed comrade Late Shri Amar Singh, retired DGM who expired during this period. The branch activities, status of medical bills/FMA, issues of CGHS, many issues related to migration to SAMPANN, the latest status of pension revision were discussed. The queries raised by members were answered by branch secretary Shri S L Purey. It was also informed that a WhatsApp group has been created to keep all the members informed about all developments and circulars received from the General Secretary CHQ are circulated amongst members. All members were requested to enroll new members.

## STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING MAY 2023



**Madurai Branch (Tamilnadu State)** has deposited Rupees Two Hundred only (Rs.200/-) towards CHQ quota for 1 new member on 23.05.2023.

**Bhopal Branch (Madhya Pradesh State)** has deposited Rupees One Thousand and Two Hundred only (Rs.1200/-) only towards CHQ quota for 6 new members on 29.05.2023.

**Coimbatore Branch (Tamilnadu State)** has deposited Rupees Three Hundred only (Rs.300/-) only towards CHQ quota for 1 new member on 30.05.2023.

**Bhopal Branch (Madhya Pradesh State)** has deposited Rupees Six Hundred only (Rs.600/-) only towards CHQ quota for 3 new members on 31.05.2023.

**Delhi Circle Branch (Delhi State)** has deposited Rupees Two Hundred (Rs.200/-) only towards CHQ quota for 1 new member on 31.05.2023.

### Kind Attention - all Branch/State Secretaries

This is to remind you all that the amendment to Constitution approved by the Kolkata AIC, increasing the Lifetime Membership fee to Rs.1000 and admission fee to Rs.100 has taken effect w.e.f. 01.04.2023. The Branches which have collected membership fee before 01.04.2023 and still have not remitted quota to CHQ are requested to remit the same latest by 31st May 2023. When remitting CHQ quota, details of the quota deposited may be simultaneously sent through email. Subsequently either complete and revised list of life members or only the list of newly added members be sent in the already existing Excel format. Branch Secretaries are also required to check periodically whether the latest list pertaining to their branches is available in the website. Any discrepancies may be brought to the notice of CHQ immediately.

In the case of issues to be taken up by CHQ, Branches are requested to send full details with all supportive documents and copy of representation of individual pensioner wherever required. All supportive documents should be scanned or neatly photographed and sent through email to official CHQ email-ID: gsaibsnlrea@yahoo.com

Branch Secretaries are requested to form WhatsApp group comprising all the members of the branch and share the information provided by CHQ in the Regional group regularly.

Branch Secretaries are further requested to hold their GB meetings as often as possible to interact with the members and also other retired Executives willing to attend the meeting. Serious efforts may be taken to enroll new members. - GS AIBSNLREA [17.05.2022]

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