



Editorial

EXPECTATION FROM CENTRAL BUDGET

After the new and much stronger Government has been installed at the centre, expectation of the public from the Government has increased manifold. Education, health, security, infrastructure building and social welfare issues fall under the common public-interest category and all want massive improvement in these sectors. Similarly, there are many sectional interests which play significant role in ease of living of the people involved. The people who badly need Government's positive and compassionate response to these sectional interests also have genuine expectation from the Government. There is no doubt that for the development and growth of the country and also for meeting the basic needs of the citizens, massive investment is invariably required. The Government raises the required fund mostly from direct and indirect taxes. In this background, Central Budget has its own importance. This reflects the priorities fixed by the Government on important issues and also its response towards the needs of those having their sectional issues to be addressed.

The Senior Citizens - especially the pensioners have always been looking at the Central Budgets from time immemorial expecting some positive announcements for their care and welfare. The problems of

the senior citizens - especially the pensioners are basically centered around their health care and livelihood. With advancing age, they encounter with several diseases which are mostly chronic and critical. The existing health-care system provided by the Government or the Organizations that they served, fails to take care of their needs. Moreover, they are to struggle with the unfriendly rules/systems to get the medical attention on time - especially during emergencies. This forces them to rush to the Hospitals at their own expenses which they are to meet from their meagre pension or other savings. Health care of the senior citizens, therefore, needs to be given special attention in the Budget.

With the gradual decrease in the rates of interests on deposits, the returns from Bank Deposits are coming down. The rate of interests on PPF, Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme and other deposits except Savings Bank Account have now been reduced by 0.1%. This will have huge impact on the income of the senior citizens. It is said that following reduction of repo-rate by Reserve Bank of India on three consecutive occasions, there had been increasing demand to reduce the rate of interest on home and other loans. The decision to reduce the rate of interests on deposits is

said to be tied to reducing lending rates for home and other loans. But in this process, the senior citizens - especially the pensioners become the victims. The Government may, therefore, consider keeping certain deposit schemes meant for senior citizens untouched whenever it considers reduction in rates of interest. Moreover, no income tax be charged from the pensioners on the interest earned on deposits. The existing no-tax limit of Rs 50,000 on Savings/Fixed Deposits under 80 TTB is now failing to serve the purpose.

In the interim budget announced before the election, Government exempted personal income tax for annual income upto Rs. 5 lakhs. It was told that with other available tax-exemption benefits, anyone earning even upto Rs. 8 lakhs per annum may not

have to pay income tax from the assessment year 2020-21. But there was no mention about the senior citizens who are always allowed higher income limit for tax exemption. It was further said that while presenting the full Budget in Parliament after the general election, the Government will take care of other related issues. Our hope now lies here only. AIBSNLREA has already requested complete exemption of pension from income-tax and also to exempt tax on interests earned on Senior Citizens' Saving Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana. However, we will come to know on Government's decision on 5th July, 2019 when the Government places the Budget on the floor of the Parliament. Till then, we are to keep our fingers crossed.

INCREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2019

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, IDA is to increase w.e.f. 1.7.2019 by 5.3% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and by 9% where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

DENIAL OF APPLICATION OF DOP&PW OM NO. 34/1/99-P&PW(G) DATED 12.11.1999 ALLOWING COMMUTATION OF PENSION TO A PENSIONER EXONERATED AS A RESULT OF DEPARTMENTAL PROCEEDINGS FROM THE DATE OF HIS RETIREMENT BY THE CCA, ODISHA – AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF SHRI BANABARA SWAIN, RETD DGM & EX-PRINCIPAL, RTTC, BHUBANESWAR: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension) with copy endorsed to Secretary (Telecom) on the above issue since the Controller of Communication Accounts, Department of Telecommunications, Odisha is denying to settle the Commutation of Pension of the above-named pensioner as per the clarification issued by DOP&PW vide its OM No. 34/1/99-P&PW(G) dated 12.11.1999 wherein it has been clearly stated that “in cases where the pensioner is exonerated as a result of departmental proceedings, commutation of pension is deemed to have fallen due on the date of retirement, as if no proceeding was initiated against him, provided he had applied for the same”. The Association has requested to advise DOT to settle this case in the light of this clarifications issued vide above mentioned DOP&PW OM dated 12.11.1999. [\[View posting dated 24.06.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) REGARDING ABNORMAL DELAY IN EXTENDING THE CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS TO THE JTOs QUALIFIED IN TES GROUP 'B' QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS ON REVISION OF THEIR SENIORITY IN TES GROUP 'B' FOLLOWING SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT DELIVERED ON 14.12.2017: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) with copies to others concerned on the above issue requesting her intervention in this matter and urging her to advise BSNL and the Personnel Branch of DOT to implement the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their letter and spirits and to ensure that no discrimination is made against the BSNL executives irrespective of whether they were promoted to DE(T)/DGM(T) by DOT or BSNL in ensuring extension of consequential benefits to all the pensioners absorbed as Executives in Telecom stream in BSNL." [\[View posting dated 14.06.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REQUESTING HIS INTERVENTION IN THE MATTER OF DENIAL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DOP&T OM DATED 19.11.2009 ALLOWING PENSION CONTRIBUTION AS PER FR-116 FOR THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL PAY IN RESPECT OF THE ABSORBED EMPLOYEES OF BSNL AND MTNL ALSO: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Prime Minister of India seeking his intervention for implementation of DOP&T OM dated 19.11.2009, allowing calculation of pension contribution basing on the existing pay in place of maximum of the pay scale of the Government employees w.e.f. 01.01.2006, in respect of BSNL and MTNL employees also. The Association cites the Inter Departmental Note of Department of Expenditure which justified the decision to allow calculation of pension contribution basing on existing pay on the ground that "With the introduction of Modified ACP Scheme under which an employee will now get financial upgradation to the next higher grade pay on completion of 10 years of service, under normal circumstances, no government servant is likely to remain in a particular grade for more than 10 years". The Association has argued that similarly in case of BSNL also, no absorbed employee will remain in a particular grade for more than 4 to 5 years in case of Executives and 7 to 8 years in case of non-executives and thus the grounds on which calculation of pension contribution basing on existing pay was allowed for the Government employees by DOE are equally applicable to the absorbed BSNL employees also. The Association has finally requested Prime Minister "to kindly intervene in the matter and advise the Department of Expenditure to take a logical and early decision in consonance with its own reasoning on the issue of pension contribution, so that BSNL and MTNL get huge financial relief at this critical juncture which is just and overdue". [\[View posting dated 03.06.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

GRIEVANCE REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS AND REVISED PENSION TO SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR TRIPATHI, RETD SDE, NTR, KOTA BY THE O/o Pr. CCA, NEW DELHI - DOT ADVISES PR. CCA, NEW DELHI FOR EXAMINATION AND DISPOSAL OF THE CASE: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Secretary (Telecom) with copy endorsed to Secretary

(Pension), DoP&PW [View posting dated 13.05.2019 in this website to read the letter], following which DoP&PW had forwarded the same to Department of Telecommunication for action as per extant rules [View posting dated 09.06.2019 in this website to read the DoP&PW letter]. Now, Department of Telecommunication has forwarded the said AIBSNLREA's representation to Principal CCA, New Delhi advising him for examination and disposal of the case under intimation to DoT. Copy of this DoT letter has also been endorsed to DoP&PW and AIBSNLREA. [\[View posting dated 21.06.2019 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION REGARDING DENIAL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DOP&T OM DATED 19.11.2009 ALLOWING PENSION CONTRIBUTION AS PER FR-116 ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL PAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ALSO TO THE ABSORBED EMPLOYEES OF BSNL AND MTNL TO THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Prime Minister's Office has since forwarded the representation of AIBSNLREA dated 01.06.2019 [View posting dated 03.06.2019 in this website to read the letter] to the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications for action as appropriate. In this representation, AIBSNLREA had requested the intervention of the Prime Minister for implementation of DOP&T OM dated 19.11.2009, allowing calculation of pension contribution basing on the existing pay in place of maximum of the pay scale of the Government employees w.e.f. 01.01.2006, in respect of BSNL and MTNL employees also. The Association had cited the Inter Departmental Note of Department of Expenditure which justified the decision to allow calculation of pension contribution basing on existing pay on the ground that "With the introduction of Modified ACP Scheme under which an employee will now get financial upgradation to the next higher grade pay on completion of 10 years of service, under normal circumstances, no government servant is likely to remain in a particular grade for more than 10 years". The Association had pointed out that in BSNL also, no absorbed employee remains in a particular grade for more than 4 to 5 years in case of Executives and 7 to 8 years in case of non-executives and thus the grounds on which pension contribution basing on existing pay was allowed for the Government employees by DOE are equally applicable to the absorbed BSNL employees. The Association had requested intervention of Prime Minister so that Department of Expenditure takes a logical and early decision in consonance with its own reasoning on the issue of pension contribution for the BSNL and MTNL employees based on existing pay. [\[View posting dated 18.06.2019 in this website to read the PMO letter\].](#)

DOT FOWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION EXPRESSING ITS DISSAPOINTMENT ON THE REPLY RECEIVED ON ITS COMPLAINT REGARDING FORCING ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS TO PURCHASE MEDICINES ONLY FROM THE STORES HAVING LARGE NETWORK OR OTHER ONLINE STORES OFFERING MINIMUM 12% DISCIOUNTS BY MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE TO BSNL FOR APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL ACTION: AIBSNLREA had earlier addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) with copies endorsed to others [view posting dated 21.05.2019 in this website to read the letter] expressing its total disappointment that the genuine grievance raised by the Association on the above issue remained unsettled and the DOT letter No. DOTEL/P/2019/00435 dated 16.04.2019 attaching a copy of an internal communication from the AGM (Admn), BSNL, Maharashtra Telecom Circle to the Dy General Manager (Admn), BSNL, Maharashtra Telecom,

vide No. A/Admn-I/Medical Pharmacy/2018/18 dated 10.04.2019, was far from satisfactory [View posting dated 28.04.2019 in this website to read this letter]. Now Department of Telecommunication has forwarded the said representation of the Association to BSNL for appropriate remedial action. [\[View posting dated 11.06.2019 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION DATED 11.05.2019 TO DOT REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS AND REVISED PENSION TO SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR TRIPATHI, RETD SDE, NTR, KOTA BY PR CCA, NEW DELHI: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Secretary (Telecom) with copy endorsed to Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW [View posting dated 13.05.2019 in this website to read the letter]. Now Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has forwarded the said representation to DDG(Estt.), Department of Telecommunication to take appropriate necessary action in the matter as per extant rules. [\[View posting dated 09.06.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ON NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF CLAIMS FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT WITH OR WITHOUT VOUCHERS AND CLAIMS FOR INDOOR TREATMENT UNDER BSNLMRS - DOP&PW FORWARDS THE REPRESENTATION TO DOT: AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) with copy endorsed to Secretary (Pension) highlighting the acute problems of the absorbed BSNL pensioners due to non-reimbursement of their medical claims both for outdoor and indoor treatment [View posting dated 15.05.2019 in this website to read the letter]. Now Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has forwarded the said representation to DDG(Estt.), Department of Telecommunications to take appropriate necessary action in the matter. [\[View posting dated 05.06.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter\].](#)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING TO GET THE PRICES OF MEDICINES USED FOR TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASES LIKE DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION SLASHED: In the posting dated 16.02.2019 in this website it was informed that the Prime Minister's Office had forwarded the AIBSNLREA' representation to the Prime Minister, requesting to get the prices of some medicines used for treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension slashed, to the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare. Now the said Department has put up the reply in the pg portal giving details of action taken so far to cap the prices of medicines which includes those used for Hypertension and Diabetes. [\[View posting dated 02.06.2019 in this website to read the DoH&FA reply\]](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

DOP&PW OPENS CALL CENTRE WITH TOLL-FREE NUMBER 1800-11-1960 TO LODGE GRIEVANCES BY THE PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS WHO ARE VERY OLD AND NOT SO TECHNO SAVY AND CANNOT LODGE GRIEVANCE IN CPENGRAMS: Considering the problems being faced especially by the very old and not so techno savvy pensioners/family pensioners to lodge their grievances online with CPENGRAMS, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare,

Government of India has opened a Call Center with toll free number 1800-11-1960 which will be operational during office-hours. The pensioners can now lodge their grievance by calling on this Toll-Free number. [\[View posting dated 04.06.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW Order\].](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

PALAKKAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HOLD GB MEETING: A General Body Meeting of Palakkad Branch of Kerala State was held on 11.06.2019 at TOP IN TOWN Conference Hall, Palakkad at 11 AM. 54 members attended the meeting. 7 new members were enrolled. The meeting was presided over by Shri K.Haridas, Retd DGM. Shri Prabhakaran, Branch Secretary welcomed the participants. During the discussions on organizational matters, the Secretary and the President explained the liquidity crunch being faced by BSNL for settling various claims of the employees and the pensioners and the consequent delay in the payment of medical claims of all nature. The meeting unanimously resolved that urgent action is required to be taken from the side of the Central Govt and the DOT without further delay to revive BSNL to regain its past glory. The meeting concluded after the vote of thanks presented by Shri Krishnanunni, Asst Branch Secretary. The members dispersed after the Lunch that was served after conclusion of the meeting.

ANNUAL GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, GUJARAT STATE BRANCH HELD: AIBSNLREA, Gujarat State Branch held its Annual General Body cum Get together Meeting in Ahmedabad Medical Association Hall, Ahmedabad on 10.06.2019 at 2.30 PM. About 275 members attended the meeting. 25 new members were also enrolled. Total strength of State Branch reached 1244 life members. Shri P.B.Parmar, State President presided over the meeting. He welcomed the members and appraised them with current problem of re-imburement of medical bills and pension revision. The meeting started with lighting of the lamp. It was followed with observance of two minutes silence in memory of the departed members. Senior members above 70 years of age as on 31.03.2019 were honoured with Shawl and Bouquet. Chief Guest Shri Nitin Singhal, Consultant Surgical Oncologist, Apollo Hospital, Ahmedabad apprised the house about cancer. Shri A.D.Raval, State Secretary addressed the gathering with details of work done by State Branch during the last year. He also reported that along with other office bearers, he attended various meetings conducted by District Branches. Shri B.M.Bhavsar, Org. Secretary(W), CHQ also addressed the members and discussed the current problems of pension revision and CGHS facility. Shri M T Patel, State Financial Secretary placed the accounts for the financial year 2018-19 which was passed by the house unanimously. Existing executive body was then dissolved by the president. Shri R.B. Goswami was nominated as election officer to conduct election. New executive body for the State Branch was elected unanimously with minor changes in the outgoing executive body. While S/Shri P.B.Parmar and S.L. Sharma were elected as State President as State Secretary respectively, Shri M T Patel was elected as State Financial Secretary. Shri S.M.Chamar presented the vote of thanks. The whole meeting was well conducted Shri R H Barot. Dinner was served after the meeting.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JUNE 2019

An amount of Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only has been deposited in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 19.06.2019.

Parbhani Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees six hundred fifty (Rs. 600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 17.06.2019 as CHQ quota for 3 new life members.

Erode Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees one thousand two hundred fifty (Rs. 1250/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 12.06.2019 as CHQ quota (Rs. 1000/-) for 5 new life members and advance quota (Rs.250/-) to be adjusted later.

Shri Varughese Chacko, Retd SDE, Thiruvalla, Kerala has deposited Rupees five thousand (Rs. 5000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 03.06.2019 as contribution to seek legal remedy on pay/pension arrears issue.

Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees one thousand four hundred (Rs. 1400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 01.06.2019 as CHQ quota for 7 new Life Members.

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