



## Editorial

### MEDICAL FACILITIES IN BSNL UNDER CONTINUOUS THREAT

Given our experience over the years, it can be said without hesitation that BSNLMRS is failing to deliver the kind of support that it needs to extend to the BSNL employees in general and the retired employees in particular. It becomes the first casualty to the unprincipled decision of BSNL management for cut in facilities in the name of curtailing the expenditure. Recently, it has ordered 50% cut in the quantum of allowance of the existing annual ceiling limit for outdoor treatment without voucher facility which was restored only last year to the retired employees. BSNL had rightly acknowledged then to justify its decision to restore the facility stating that restoration is being done “to mitigate the hardships in submission and following up of medical claims by the retired employees”. This justification is still relevant today. But BSNL has now chosen to ignore its own realization that retired employees of BSNL are really having genuine problems in with voucher facility for outdoor treatment. It has now virtually forced the retired BSNL employees to switch over to the with voucher facility and face the same hardships that they experienced earlier. The outdoor treatment without voucher facility is again discriminatory against the retired employees who retired prior to 1.1.2007 in the matter of calculating their annual ceiling limit when compared to the

employees retired after 1.1.2007. BSNL had earlier refused to remove this genuine discrimination. The retired employees opting for with voucher facility never receive reimbursement on time and the claims submitted receive unjustified objections and also cut. BSNL Corporate Office no doubt issues advices for timely payment. But these are never taken note of and followed by the field units. Here also, the parameters used to determine the annual ceiling limit are heavily loaded against the retired employees. These need to be reviewed and rectified. Here too the threats are always looming large for cut in the annual ceiling limit.

The indoor treatment facility also suffers from various deficiencies. The number of empaneled Hospitals are quite inadequate and also such panel hardly includes reputed super-specialty hospitals. Moreover, number of empaneled hospitals with cashless treatment facility is becoming thin and rare. This puts the retired employees in trouble, since they have no medical advance facility and thus they are forced to arrange entire money for their treatment and then wait for an indefinite period to get the reimbursement. The present requirement to obtain the authorisation letter from the designated officer before getting admitted in hospitals becomes a big

task for the retired employees residing alone or with spouse only. No doubt, the retired employees are having the option to switch over to CGHS facility. But this is available only in limited cities.

Therefore, BSNL needs to review the entire system with open mind and in consultation with all stake holders and come out with a reasonable and acceptable solution.

## ISSUES TAKEN UP

**ABNORMAL DELAY IN ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH MEMBER (SERVICES), TELECOM COMMISSION:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Member (Services), Telecom Commission seeking for his intervention in the matter of inordinate delay in issuing Presidential Orders for absorption in BSNL in respect of the SDEs who are now retired and whose absorption process could not be completed when they were in service. The Association has quoted the specific cases of Shri S P Contractor, Retd SDE, Gujarat and Shri R K Tripathi, Retd SDE, Rajasthan Circle for whom BSNL has already forwarded the required documents to the Staff Branch of DOT. [View posting dated 30.07.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

**EXTENSION OF WITHOUT VOUCHER FACILITY UNDER BSNLMRS TO THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES - AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE DECISION TO IMPOSE DRASTIC CUT IN ALLOWANCE:** BSNL had issued an Order reducing the quantum of allowance for without voucher facility to the retired employees under BSNLMRS from 50% to 25% of the annual ceiling limit. AIBSNLREA has since requested Director (HR), BSNL to reconsider the decision to impose the huge cut in allowance since this defeats the very purpose for which the facility was restored last year. The Association quotes from the order restoring the facility that this was being done “to mitigate the hardships in submission and following up of medical claims by the retired employees” and says that the retired employees are once again being driven to the same situation as before by this decision. [View posting dated 28.07.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) FOR ISSUE OF CLARIFICATION FOR NON-APPLICATION OF THE ORDER DATED 10.07.2018 REGARDING REVISION OF ANNUAL CEILING LIMIT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF OUTDOOR TREATMENT TO THE PRE-2007 RETIREES:** AIBSNLREA has since requested Director (HR), BSNL to issue a clarification to avoid any confusion in the field units regarding its applicability on the pensioners who retired prior to 1.1.2007. The Association writes “While the ceiling limit for the post 1.1.2007 retirees is calculated on revised pay scales, for the pre 2007 pensioners, the medical reimbursement is based on either (i) pay at the minimum of the revised pay scale with corresponding revised DA as on April every year or (ii) last pay drawn on pre revised scale with corresponding pre revised DA as on April every year. On either count the fixation with 78.2 % fitment as on 01-01-2007 has no effect on them”. The Association has urged that “In view of the position explained above, the Orders for reducing the number of days from 25 days to 23 days to calculate the ceiling limit is not applicable to those who retired prior to 1.1.2007. A clarification to this effect may be issued immediately to avoid any confusion in

the field units on the applicability of this Order on the pre-2007 pensioners so as to save these pensioners from unnecessary harassment and financial loss". [View posting dated 19.07.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

**REVISION OF SENIORITY LISTS OF THE JTOs QUALIFIED IN TES GROUP B QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS AND EXTENSION OF CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS AS PER JUDGMENT DELIVERED ON 14/12/2017 BY HON'BLE SUPREME COURT IN CIVIL APPEAL NO.(s) 4389 of 2010:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (HR), BSNL requesting her to issue Orders to extend the consequential benefits to the JTOs who qualified in TES Group B Qualifying Examinations and whose revised Seniority Lists were placed before the Supreme Court by BSNL - and thus comply with the direction of the Hon'ble Court. The Association mentions that DOT had earlier issued revised seniority List No.s I to XVII for the TES Group B Qualifying Exam qualified JTOs based on Para 206 of P&T Manual IV and BSNL also followed it up by issuing further Seniority Lists. [View posting dated 12.07.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

## **RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS**

**DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) REGARDING DENIAL OF BENEFIT OF ROUNDING OFF FRACTION OF A RUPEE TO THE NEXT HIGHER RUPEE TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF PENSION OF THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS BY THE PR. CCA, TAMILNADU CIRCLE TO THE DDG(PG), DOT:** Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has since forwarded the representation by AIBSNLREA dated 16.05.2018 addressed to Secretary (Pension) [view posting dated 16.05.2018 in this website to read the letter] to the DDG(PG), DOT for examining the issues raised as per extant rules. In its representation, the Association had mentioned about denial of benefit of rounding off fraction of a rupee to the next higher rupee to determine the amount of pension of the absorbed BSNL pensioners by the Pr. CCA, Tamilnadu Circle of DOT. The Association had quoted the provision as available in Rule 49/4 of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 which stipulates that "The amount of pension finally determined under clause (a) or (b) of sub-rule 2, shall be expressed in whole rupee and where the pension contains a fraction of a rupee it shall be rounded off to the next higher rupee". [View posting dated 04.07.2018 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

## **GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS**

**BSNL ADVISES CIRCLES TO SEND CASES OF LEFT OUT EMPLOYEES FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL AND ISSUE OF PRESIDENTIAL ORDERS IN PROPER FORMAT:** BSNL has issued an Order advising the Circles to send the cases of left out employees for absorption in BSNL and issue of Presidential Orders in proper format. It has issued a check list detailing the documents to be enclosed along with these cases. If the Circles scrupulously follow these instructions, much of the delay in completing the process for issue of Presidential Orders for absorption can be avoided. [View posting dated 31.07.2018 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

**BSNL ISSUES ORDERS FOR CONTINUATION OF MEDICAL ALLOWANCE (WITHOUT VOUCHER) FACILITY FOR THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES - IMPOSES DRASTIC CUT IN ENTITLED AMOUNT:** BSNL has now issued an order allowing continuation of Medical Allowance (without voucher) facility to its retired employees. Simultaneously, it has ordered drastic cut in the entitled amount. The quantum of allowance has now been reduced from existing 50% to 25% of the annual ceiling w.e.f. 01.04.2018 subject to minimum allowance payable Rs 12000/- per annum. The payments will continue to be made on quarterly basis. [View posting dated 14.07.2018 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

**BSNL ISSUES ORDERS FOR REVISION OF CEILING LIMIT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF OUTDOOR TREATMENT:** BSNL has now issued an Order revising the annual ceiling limit for reimbursement of outdoor treatment to 23 days salary (basic pay + DA) consequent to raising the fitment of IDA Basic Pay to 78.2% from 68.8%. This Order is in sequence to an earlier Order issued by Establishment Branch of BSNL vide No. 11-04/2015-PAT (BSNL) dated 1.1.2018. The Order is effective from 1.4.2018 and applicable to both the serving and retired employees. [View posting dated 12.07.2018 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

**RELEASE OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS NOT TO BE STOPPED TO A RETIREE AGAINST WHOM PERSONAL COURT CASES OTHER THAN DEPARTMENTAL ARE PENDING IN COMPETENT COURT:** Quoting an old DOP&PW Order issued in 2003 and also endorsed by DoT, BSNL Corporate Office has now clarified that “vigilance clearance shall have to be granted for the limited purpose of releasing pensionary benefits of BSNL employees against whom personal court cases (other than departmental) are pending at the time of their retirement, provided that such an employee is otherwise clear from vigilance angle”. [View posting dated 07.07.2018 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

**REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2018 IN CPSEs WHERE LAST PAY REVISION IMPLEMENTED WEF 1.1.2007:** DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.7.2018 from 127.2% to 128% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. [View posting dated 04.07.2018 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

**REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2018 IN CPSEs WHERE LAST PAY REVISION IMPLEMENTED WEF 1.1.1997:** DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.7.2018 from 283.5% to 284.8% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. [View posting dated 04.07.2018 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

## **BRANCHES IN ACTION**

**GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, KURUKSHETRA BRANCH:** A General Body meeting of Kurukshetra Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 10/07/2018 at Yatra Niwas, a Haryana Tourism Hotel in Kurukshetra. It was attended by 28 out of total 38 enrolled life members. The meeting started at 11.30 A.M. and concluded at 2.00 P.M. This was followed by a lunch. Following issues were discussed in the meeting:- ((i) Revision of D.A w.e.f 1.07.2018 where pay revision was implemented w.e.f 1.1.2007 and 1.1.1997, (ii) Action to prepare Cabinet Note for revision of pay

scales of BSNL executives by DOT, (iii) Latest development on medical reimbursement with vouchers and without vouchers and speedy settlement of claims, (iv) Status of filling case in P-CAT for settlement of pay/pension arrears on account of allowing fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA. The members were also apprised of the details of the meeting that President Shri D S Sandhu and Branch Secretary Jogi Ram had with GMTD Karnal mainly to discuss the delay in settlement of outdoor as well as indoor medical claims.

**NADIAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD BI-MONTHLY GB MEETING:** Nadiad Branch (Gujarat State) of AIBSNLREA held its Bi-monthly General Body meeting on 11.07.2018 at Lions Club Hall, Anand. Fifty seven members attended the meeting. Three new members also joined the Association. Shri B.M. Patel, Branch Secretary welcomed the members and reported the activities of the Branch. He reported that all members of the branch have got their medical bills without vouchers for 2017-18. Dr Mahesh T Desai, an well-known doctor was the Chief Guest, who spoke about health consciousness. Shri P.B.Parmar, Circle President spoke about Pension Revision as per 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC, Extension of outdoor Medical treatment without vouchers. Shri A.B.Patel, Circle Secretary appraised about current affairs such as pension revision from 1.1.2017, medical reimbursement with and without vouchers, present status of court case for getting arrears from 1-1-2007 to 9-6-2013 as per 78.2% IDA fitment. Shri B.M.Bhavsar Org. Secretary (W) CHQ spoke about age old problems, necessity of enjoying second Inning for long and healthy life, benefits of exercise, yoga, walking and laughing etc. Vote of thanks was presented by Shri R.H.Parikh, Retd. DE, This was followed by lunch which was sponsored by Shri D.D.Solanki,, Retd SDE, Cambay.

**JUNAGADH BRANCH HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING ON 12.07.2018:** A General Body Meeting of Junagadh Branch (Gujarat State) was held on 12.07.2018 at Garden Café Restaurant, Junagah. Total 65 members including family members were present in spite of heavy rain throughout the day. Two new members joined the Association Shri S.D.Kanabar, Branch President presided over the function. He welcomed all the members. Shri K.P.Dobaria, Finance Secretary briefed the members on all current issues and efforts made by the branch for solving the problems. State President Shri P.B.Parmar briefed the house about current status of pension revision as per 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC with 15% fitment benefit. He discussed about recent orders on medical bills for 23 days with 78.2% IDA fitment. He also told that orders are going to be issued for outdoor medical treatment without vouchers for pensioners. State Secretary Shri A.B.Patel briefed the house regarding the initiatives of the State Branch in solving the problems of the members. He briefed about current status of court case for implementation 78.2% fixation from 1.1.2007 and other pension and medical related issues. He also answered the queries raised by the members. Shri B.M.Bhavsar, Org. Secretary (W), CHQ appealed to the members for donation for legal fund for our court case in Pr.Bench CAT New Delhi which requires huge financial support for getting 78.2% IDA fitment from 1.1.2007 to 9.6.2013. He discussed about age old problems, need for enjoying second Innings for long and healthy life, benefits of exercise, yoga, walking and laughing etc. Vote of thanks was finally presented by Shri H.N.Herbha, Branch Secretary. It was followed by Dinner.

**ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF VARODARA BRANCH HELD:** Annual General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Vadodara Branch (Gujarat State) was held at 11.00 PM on 13.07.2018 at

Hotel Utsav. 79 members attended the meeting despite heavy downpour. President Shri Ainapure welcomed all the members. Shri R T Shah, Branch Secretary presented a comprehensive report on the activities of the branch since last election. The members participated in discussions on important issues. Thereafter, election was conducted to elect new Office bearers of the Branch. Following is the composition of the new body: President - Shri Patel I A, Vice Presidents – S/Shri Modi K A and Desai N G, Branch secretary - Shri Shah R T, Asst. Branch Secretary – S/Shri Tailor S Z and Biniwale A J, Finance secretary - Shri Purohit, Asst. Finance secretary - Shri Modi P J, Area Secretary (North) - Shri Shah D N, Area Secretary (South) - Shri Shah M J, Area Secretary (East) - Shri Patel M J, Area Secretary (West) - Shri Kandachia. Thereafter, the new President Shri Patel I A addressed the house and the members disbursed after lunch.

## **STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JULY 2018**

**Chandigarh Branch** has deposited Rupees eight thousand (Rs. 8000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 18.07.2018 as contribution from 10 members for seeking legal remedy on pay/pension arrears issue

**Chandigarh Branch** has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs.600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Karur Vysya Bank on 18.07.2018 as CHQ quota for 3 new Life Members.

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