



Editorial

BSNL ON THE VERGE OF TOTAL FINANCIAL COLLAPSE

It is not new that talks about BSNL's financial crisis was being heard in the open. Some measures were also being planned and acted upon from time to time to tackle the situation. As a result, a few years' back, even the BSNL Management confirmed operating profits of BSNL for consecutive two/three years. This gave lots of hopes in all that BSNL is turning around and will be able to be back on sound financial position shortly. But now, it seems that BSNL's financial position has sharply deteriorated. It is said that revenue collection of BSNL has now sharply declined and practically a red signal has been issued about a serious financial crisis which is affecting both the serving and retired employees of BSNL.

The situation has so dramatically changed that even the medical claims of the employees – specially the retired employees are not being cleared for several months and in many cases even for over a year. BSNL is not releasing required funds to clear these payments. BSNL is even considering deferment of salaries of its employees. At one point of time, an Order was also issued to defer the payment of salaries of some specified group of officers by some days. Unless adequate revenue is generated and avoidable expenditure is curtailed, there seems to be no immediate respite from this crisis. It is true that unethical aggressive campaign by a private operator in mobile

sector affected not only BSNL and but also all other private operators. As a result, many private operators have also started reporting losses. But there is no reason why BSNL cannot withstand this pressure. With such a huge network, assets and experienced work force, BSNL should be able to turn the table on the others. No doubt, certain aberrations made by the Government at the initial stages of allowing private operators to enter telecom service sector have put certain disadvantages on BSNL. In true sense, BSNL is not having pan India coverage since it cannot provide services in Mumbai and Delhi because of existence of another public sector entity i.e. MTNL in both these cities. But the private operators have no such restriction. Moreover, Government has not adequately compensated BSNL for the services that it provides to meet the social obligations of the Government. There are many other areas which could be cited to prove Government's apathy to the causes of BSNL. But this will serve no purpose now.

What is needed at this hour is a concerted effort by one and all to take BSNL out of this present crisis. We believe that the BSNL Management and the Employees now need to come on board and rub their shoulders to take BSNL out of this mess with some immediate action plan. Otherwise, the situation will go out of control and BSNL cannot be saved from total collapse.

INCREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.10.2018

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, IDA is to increase w.e.f. 1.10.2018 by 7.6% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and by 13% where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

NON-ISSUE OF PENSION SLIPS INDICATING DETAILS OF PENSION DRAWN AND INCOME TAX DEDUCTED TO THE PENSIONERS RECEIVING PENSION THROUGH CANARA BANK BRANCHES IN KERALA- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH CMD, CANARA BANK: Since no pension slips, as above, are being issued to the pensioners, particularly DOT/BSNL IDA pensioners, receiving pension through Canara Bank Branches in Kerala, AIBSNLREA has requested CMD, Canara Bank “to ensure that all the pensioners drawing pension from your Branches in Kerala are issued monthly pension-slips indicating the details of pension credited in their S/B accounts including the amount of income tax being deducted. These details may be supplied in their registered mobile numbers through sms and also by e-mail in their given e mail-id”. [View posting dated 25.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

NON-SANCTION OF ANNUAL INCREMENT FALLING DUE ON THE DAY FOLLOWING SUPERANNUATION ON COMPLETION OF ONE FULL YEAR OF SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVANTS– AIBSNLREA AGAIN TAKES UP THE ISSUE: At present, Government Employees whose increment falls due on the day following their superannuation, on completion of their full year of service, are being denied the annual increment even for the limited purpose of granting pensionary benefits. AIBSNLREA had earlier taken up the issue with VII CPC (view posting dated 08/04/2015) and Secretary, DO&T (view posting dated 05/05/2015) requesting to grant at least one notional increment in all such cases for the purpose of allowing pensionary benefits as was ordered by Tamilnadu State Government for its employees. DoP&T had forwarded our said representation to Department of Expenditure (view posting dated 14/02/2016). But DOE did not concede to our request (view posting dated 26/06/2016). The Association then again requested DOE to re-examine the issue (view posting dated 13/07/2016) and the DOP&T also forwarded copy of our said representation to DOE (view posting dated 19/09/2016). But the issue was not resolved. Now the Association has again taken up the issue with Secretary, DOP&T in the background of one Madras High Court judgment delivered on 15/9/2017 which allowed the same benefit, as requested by us, to a Petitioner who retired from Customs & Excise Department of Government of India. [View posting dated 24.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

ORDER BY MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE TO REJECT MEDICAL CLAIMS IF MEDICINES ARE NOT PURCHASED FROM STORES OFFERING MINIMUM DISCOUNT OF 12% - AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) PROTESTING AGAINST THIS ARBITRARY ORDER AND REQUESTING HER TO ADVISE CGMT, BSNL, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE TO IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW THE SAME: Maharashtra Telecom Circle of BSNL has issued an order threatening the beneficiaries of

BSNLMRS, both employees and pensioners, to reject medical reimbursement claims if medicine are purchased from medical shops not allowing 12% discount. AIBSNLREA has protested against this Order and requested Director (HR), BSNL to advise Maharashtra Circle to immediately withdraw the said Order. The Association has pointed out that BSNL CO is the only authority to frame policies on BSNLMRS and not the Circles. Maharashtra Circle cannot order to purchase medicines from a particular Store or those offering discounts. This helps only in unfair trade practices. It also cannot threaten the employees/pensioners to reject their claims on this account. Moreover, BSNL's medical expenditure is no way curtailed/controlled if the medicines are purchased with or without discounts, since all employees and pensioners get reimbursement within their own ceiling limit. [View posting dated 20.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA REQUEST MOSC FOR REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE-2017 ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS SIMULTANEOUSLY ALONG WITH THE REVISION OF PAY SCALES OF THE ABSORBED BSNL EXECUTIVES W.E.F. 01.01.2017: In a representation to Minister of State for Communications, AIBSNLREA has expressed its satisfaction that DOT is all set to prepare a draft Cabinet Note for revision of pay scales of the BSNL Executives in terms of the recommendations of the 3rd PRC and as approved by the Government of India by seeking relaxation of the affordability clause provided in the Order for BSNL. Quoting the principle followed in Government for simultaneous revision of pay scales of the serving employees and revision of pension of the past pensioners based on the Supreme Court Orders and echoed in V CPC recommendations, AIBSNLREA has further requested MOSC "to advise Department of Telecommunications to simultaneously process the revision of pay scales of the serving BSNL Executives and revision of pension of the past absorbed BSNL Executive pensioners with the same fitment benefit to get the Cabinet approval". [View posting dated 10.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS PERTAINING EVEN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017-18 TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES– AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Director (HR), BSNL about the serious problem that the retired BSNL employees are facing since the field units have not cleared their medical claims even for the financial year 2017-18 – thus forcing them to face serious hardships. AIBSNLREA points out that despite the direction given to the field units vide OM No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-22/14 dated 25.04.2018 to make immediate payment of 3rd and 4th quarters of medical claims for without voucher facility for the year 2017-18, none of the Units followed the advice. The Association also refers to the report that the Units in Kerala Circle have deposited TDS to the Income Tax Department for the retired employees even though no payment has been made to the concerned retired employees for the 3rd and 4th quarters under the without voucher facility. The Association has finally requested Director (HR) "to kindly intervene in the matter and let the field units be advised to clear all the claims for the year 2017-18 on priority basis and report back to you. Similarly, the claims for the year 2018-2019 also need to be expeditiously cleared since half of the current financial year is almost over..". [View posting dated 05.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

NON-REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCE OF SHRI PAWAN KUMAR JINDAL, RETD DE (SANGRUR) REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT LODGED IN THE RETIRED

GRIEVANCE CELL DUE TO INACTION BY ERP UNIT– AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR): AIBSNLREA writes to Director (HR), BSNL about the above case in which the Accounts Officer (Claim), Saagrur (Pb) has intimated that due to non-acceptance of the full amount in the ERP, the claim could not be settled and the docket made on 25.06.2018 but the problem in the ERP has not been solved. The Association has requested Director (HR) to intervene and “advise the Retired Employees Grievance Cell to take up the matter with ERP Unit and get the problem in ERP as mentioned by the Accounts Officer (Claim), o/o GMTD, Sangrur (Pb) in his mail (enclosed) solved so that Shri Pawan Kumar Jindal, Retd DE could be paid his balance of medical claim for the year 2017-18”. [View posting dated 04.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

03.09.2018 REVISION OF SENIORITY OF LIST OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS IN COMPLAINE OF HON’BLE SUPREME COURT JUDGMENTS TO EXTEND CONSUQUENTIAL BENEFITS - AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) CORRECTING AN INADVERTENT MISTAKE IN PARAS 3 AND 4 OF ITS REPRESENTATION DATED 01.09.2018 ON THE SAME ISSUE: In continuation to its earlier representation dated 01.09.2018 to Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunication on the above issue (view posting dated 02.09.2018), AIBSNLREA has now addressed a letter to Secretary (T) informing that there had been one inadvertent typographical mistake in Paras 3 and 4 of the said representation wherein the last word at the end of both the paras were typed as “1981” in place of “2001”. AIBSNLREA has also communicated the corrected paras by replacing “1981” by “2001”. [View posting dated 03.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

REVISION OF SENIORITY OF LIST OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS IN COMPLAINE OF HON’BLE SUPREME COURT JUDGMENTS TO EXTEND CONSUQUENTIAL BENEFITS - AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) REGARDING THE DISCRIMINATORY DECISION BY BSNL AGAINST THE BSNL EXECUTIVES PROMOTED TO DE(T)/DGM(T) PRIOR TO 1981: Maintaining that BSNL’s decision for revision of promotion to the DE(T)/DGM(T) issued to the BSNL Executives only after 2001 onwards is in gross violation of the judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court and also a blatant discriminatory one against those absorbed BSNL Executives who were promoted prior to 1981, AIBSNLREA has urged Secretary (Telecom) “to kindly advice BSNL and other concerned to implement the judgments of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in their letter and spirits and in full and also to ensure that no discrimination is made against those BSNL executives who were promoted to DE(T)/DGM(T) prior to 1981”. [View posting dated 02.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

NON-REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE-2007 ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS BY PRINCIPAL CCA, DELHI REGION - CASE OF SHRI RAM NATH RAO, RETD JTO, NTR, LUCKNOW: AIBSNLREA has taken up the above case with Member (Finance), Telecom Commission since Principal Controller of Communication Accounts, Delhi Region is yet to revise the pension of the said retired Executive though the Office of DGMM(NTR), Lucknow had submitted all the necessary documents to the Accounts Officer (Pension) in Pr CCA Office almost a year back requesting to revise the pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA with basic pension as per DOT Order dated 18.07.2016. The Association has requested Member (Finance) to “intervene in

this case so that the said pensioner gets his revised PPO issued at the earliest and his arrears of pension is also paid without further delay.” [View posting dated 01.09.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

GUIDELINES FOR RDA AGAINST RETIRED OFFICERS OF BSNL: BSNL Corporate Office has since issued guidelines on above in which it has been reiterated that RDA for major penalty can be initiated on retired officers subject to the condition that 4 years have not elapsed since the date/period of misconduct. In cases RDA has been advised by Commission/CVO, BSNL and same cannot be implemented in view of the said limitation of 4 years, the status of such cases be intimated to BSNL Corporate Office immediately. [View posting dated 27.09.2018 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

AIBSNLREA, WEST BENGAL STATE BRANCH HELD MEETINGS WITH CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES AND CGM, ETR: West Bengal State Branch of AIBSNLREA had a pre-scheduled with CGM CTD on 19th September 2018 in his chamber. The Association was represented By S/Shri S.R.Palit, S.K.Maitra, K.P.Ghosh, Kartick Dey and Smt. Kalpana Sadhukhan. The discussion was held mainly on huge backlog of medical allowance and reimbursement of Indoor & outdoor medical claims. After long discussions, the CGM instructed DE Health Care to call for reports from the units and also wanted to ensure that all pending (both allowance & reimbursement) bills processed and uploaded in ERP system immediately for effecting payment on receipt of funds from BSNLHQ. Regarding Indoor treatment, he assured to empanel more hospitals who are agreed to extend treatment facility at CGHS rates. The Association strongly demanded to clear all pending medical payments before the ensuing Puja festival. The association representatives also met CGM, Eastern Telecom Region on the same day afternoon. During discussions, the Association pointed out a few cases where reimbursement of medical bills were pending for a long time. The CGM was also requested to settle the left out family pension revision cases with 78.2% fitment benefit.

AMBALA BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HOLD GB MEETING: A general body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 18th Sept 2018. The meeting was held in hotel Dilli Durbar under the chairmanship of Shri P.C Chauhan President of the Branch. 26 members attended the meeting. One new life member joined our branch making the membership to 64 life members. Shri Chauhan welcomed all the members. Shri S K Aggarwal Branch Executive briefed the members on the various issues in the absence of Shri. J.C Gupta Branch Secretary who has been away to Gurgaon. All the members expressed their deep anguish on the stoppage of payment of medical bills both with voucher/without vouchers and also Indoor bills. The members were also critical of the attitude of DOT in not finalizing the pension revision of BSNL Pensioners as per 3rd PRC.

GB MEETING OF MUMBAI BRANCH HELD: A General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Mumbai Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 05.09.2018 at 14:00 hrs in the Conference Hall of Telephone House, Prabhadevi, Mumbai under the chairmanship of Branch President Shri U.A Tiwari. The House

first observed two minutes silence to pay homage to former Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and hundreds of people who lost their lives in Kerala and other states due to the devastating flood. The President welcomed all the members and gave some valuable information. He explained in detail about medical facility to BSNL employees and revision of seniority list.

Branch Secretary S.P. Varma welcomed State President Shri Vasudeva and Shri Luptuke for enrolling himself as Life Member with Mumbai Branch. Branch Secretary read out the Minutes of last G.B. meeting which was passed without any alteration. He explained in detail about the status of Court case on pay/pension arrears issue and 3rd PRC. He replied to all the questions and doubts raised by the members. BSNL has issued an order for Revision of Seniority List of TES Group B Officers as per Para 206. Our Association has written a letter to extend consequential benefits to one and all. He also added that lot of information are missing in the list. Names of so many members are also missing. It will take some time to correct them.

State President Shri Vasudeva also addressed the House. He informed about all the developments at Circle and CHQ level. He advised the members to switch over to C.G.H.S scheme for Medical facility to avoid complications. Shri Devassy presented Vote of Thanks and thereafter the meeting came to a close.

NEW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA AT JAUNPUR (UP STATE) FORMED: A new Branch of AIBSNLREA at Jaunpur in UP State has been formed on 01.09.2018. In the meeting held in the office campus of TDM, Jaunpur on 1st September 2018 at 3 PM, the branch was formed with S/Shri D S Yadav as President, Ram Dhani Ram as Branch Secretary and Ram Murti Maurya as the Finance Secretary. 8 life members joined the Association. S/Shri R K Sinha, Joint Secretary, CHQ, Akhtar Hussain, Organizing Secretary, UP State and Yad Ali, Branch Secretary, Varanasi attended the meeting.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING SEPTEMBER 2018

Chandigarh Branch has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs. 600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Karur Vysya Bank on 28/08/2018 as CHQ quota for three new Life Members.

Ambala Branch (Haryana State) has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 19/09/2018 as CHQ quota for one new Life Member.

Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees ten thousand (Rs 10,000/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 06/09/2018 for Flood Relief Fund.

Jaunpur Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees one thousand six hundred (Rs. 1600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 04/09/2018 as CHQ quota for eight (8) new Life Members.

East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees Seventeen thousand five hundred fifty (Rs. 17550/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 03/09/2018 as donation (Rs 7500/-) on receiving pension arrears from 15 members and as contribution (Rs 10,050/) for legal action on pay/pension arrears issue received from 19 members.

East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees one thousand eight hundred (Rs. 1800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 03/09/2018 as CHQ quota for nine (9) new Life Members.

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