



Editorial

MISSING ACCOUNTABILITY IN BSNL AT ALL LEVELS

Success-story of any organization does not depend only on its resources, but on the proper utilization and management of its resources and strength. Given the gradual fall of BSNL from the top pedestal over the years and its fast descent in the recent times, despite the Government approving certain measures in the name of revival of BSNL, question is naturally being raised as to why and where the things are going wrong.

Anyone closely watching BSNL will certainly find that at this moment right from top to bottom in BSNL, no one feels that he is accountable and responsible to the Organization which gives him his bread. They act as per their whims and fancies. It is now a total anarchy in BSNL. The Rules, Orders framed by the Government and BSNL itself are being bluntly flouted. Corporate Office, which has not only to frame rules, policies but also has to ensure their proper implementation and monitoring, is itself in total disarray. After implementation of VRS, there appears to be a lackadaisical approach to all issues by those who are responsible to take action, partly due to lack of knowledge of rules and orders and partly due to lethargy and

indifference. Unfortunately, there is no one to question these erring/indifferent officials/officers, since the one who is required to monitor and question such behaviour, is himself ignorant of rules and orders. This trend is not restricted only to BSNL Corporate Office but also extends to the Circles which are found to be unconcerned, apathetic and oblivious to rules and procedures. May be, they have sensed the weakness of BSNL Headquarters and not taking it seriously.

This being the state of affairs, it is seen that recently the Circles did not respond to the repeated Orders/advice/instructions issued by Corporate Office in quick succession giving some timelines to complete certain pending activities in regard to BSNL VRS-2019 so as to settle the issue of payment of Ex-gratia to the VRS retirees once for all. But the Circles did not take them seriously and the matter went on stretching. It is not known whether the latest D.O. letter by Director (HR) himself will have impact on the Circle Heads. It appears that Corporate Office wants to assess the total outstanding requirement for payment of 4th and final instalment of ex-Gratia to the

VRS-retirees and accordingly place its demand to DOT. But given the attitude of some Circles, it appears that Corporate Office will not be able to assess and project the actual requirement of funds. After payment of final instalment of ex-gratia, when more funds are required to settle the left-out cases, it could become difficult for getting funds from DoT/Government. In such a scenario BSNL will have to arrange the additional fund from its own resources. It is not that we are just expressing our apprehensions on this future scenario without any basis. We, here, cite a few developments to establish that we are not wrong on our assessment.

Despite Corporate Office advising the Circles to settle all pending Time Bound Financial upgradation cases of the VRS-retirees under EPP/NEPP, many cases are still remaining unsettled. In a particular case, Karnataka Circle issued 2nd Time Bound Financial upgradation w.e.f. 27.12.2009 without raising any issue to one VRS-retiree Shri H S Hugar just a day earlier to his retirement, but now wants certain clarifications for his 3rd and 4th Financial upgradation when these clarifications are already available in public domain. A letter seeking clarification by mixing up Financial upgradation with post-based promotion is sent to Corporate Office under the signature of PGM (Finance) of the Circle, naturally raising question on the wisdom and ability of such Officers to handle HR issues. In

another case, the same Karnataka Circle refuses to act on detailed guidelines issued by Corporate Office on 06.05.2020 about releasing leave encashment to VRS-retirees whose vigilance clearance is withheld. As a result, another VRS-retiree Shri B M Nyamati, Retd CAO has become the victim of the highhandedness of the concerned officials/officers of Karnataka Circle.

Establishment Branch of Corporate Office, which is supposed to guide all Circles on rules/orders to deal with the cases related to staff-matters, itself forces UP (West) Telecom Circle to withdraw its Order condoning the administrative delay between completion of pre-appointment training and issue of appointment letter to count the period as service for pensionary benefits as allowed under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. It is reluctant to restore the same even when relevant rules and DOT Orders are presented. Thus, another VRS-retiree Shri A K Dubey, Retd AGM of UP (West) Telecom Circle has been left to suffer because of inaction of Establishment Branch. Similarly, Tamilnadu Circle has no time and inclination to allow the benefit of counting the period of training as service for payment of pensionary benefits and ex-gratia to another VRS-retiree Shri R J Christopher Girigori Raj, Retd SDE till now. Though the benefit cannot be denied to these VRS-retirees for long, if the matter is not resolved now, all efforts by Director (HR) for actual

assessment of requirement of fund for final ex-gratia payment to the VRS-retirees will be defeated.

But the most deplorable, callous attitude and whimsical action comes from the administration of Calcutta Telephones. Here the CTD administration seeks certain specific clarifications from Corporate Office regarding pay fixation of the officiating JTOs, who opted for fixation of pay in the revised pay scales under Para 3.6 of BSNL No 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010 from the date of their promotion as regular JTO in 2008. Accordingly, Corporate Office issues the clarifications. But Calcutta Telephones seems to have no confidence in its own Headquarters, decides to ignore these clarifications and rushes to CCA, Kolkata for guidance – an unprecedented incident ever heard of in BSNL. In this case, due to wrong revision of pay-fixation of a group of executives just on the eve of their retirement under BSNL VRS-2019 on 31.01.2020, huge amount running to lakhs of rupees was recovered from their Ex-gratia, DCRG etc. Here, CTD is failing to distinguish between BSNL Order No. 5-32/2013/Estt.IV dated 22.12.2015 on fixation of officiating pay of the JTOs that was allowed under FR.

22(1)(a)(i) in place of FR-35 as per Pr. CAT Delhi Order and upheld by Supreme Court as confirmed by BSNL No. 3-8/2010-Estt-IV(Pt) dated 18.09.2018 on one hand and fitment in revised IDA pay scale as per option under Para 3.6 of BSNL No 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2020 on the other hand. Both the cases are different and different orders/fitment methods are applicable in these cases. To-day or to-morrow, these VRS-retirees will also get their earlier pay-fixation restored back. At that time, BSNL will certainly have to pay the ex-gratia from its own Fund, since DOT may not get fund released for the purpose as and when asked for. After all, funds are allotted by Ministry of Finance.

The above are just a few examples of the pending unresolved cases of the VRS-retirees which exposes the lack of application of mind and absence of sense of accountability and responsibility in the concerned officials/officers. Above all, failing to abide by instructions from its own Headquarters and tendency to defy its orders/advice speaks volumes about the direction in which BSNL is now moving. This certainly does not auger well for BSNL and all its stakeholders.



IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE MONTH

✚ Central Pension Accounts Office under Department of Expenditure, vide its No. CPAO/IT & Tech/Bank Performance/37 (Vol-III)A/2020-21 dated 23.11.2020, advised Heads of all CPCCs and Govt.

Business Departments to instruct all their bank branches dealing with pension payment to record PPO number in all the passbooks of the pensioners/family pensioners issued by them.

- ✚ In view of Covid-19 pandemic, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 18/1/2020-P&PW(H)-Vol-III-6786 dated 23.11.2020, has ordered further extension of period for submission of Life Certificates by the Government pensioners from 31st December, 2020 to 28th February, 2021.
- ✚ BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 16-05/2019/CBB/BB/Gen Corr. dated 19.11.2020, asked all its Telecom Circles/Territorial Circles/ District to furnish break up of pending liability of Hospital vendors and Retirees – Post retirement in prescribed formats within three days from the date of issue of the Order.
- ✚ DPE, vide its No. W-02/0039/2017-DPE(WC)-G-XVI/20 dated 19.11.2020, has ordered freezing of Dearness Allowance to the CPSE employees due from 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 and 01.04.2021. As and when decision to release the future instalment of Dearness Allowance is taken, the rates of Dearness Allowance as effective from 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 and 01.04.2021 will be restored prospectively and will be subsumed in the cumulative revised rates effective from 01.07.2021. No arrears for the period 01.10.2020 till 30.06.2021 will be paid.



ISSUES TAKEN UP

23.11.2020 AIBSNLREA CONVEYS ITS DISSPOINTEMENT TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE ORDERS ISSUED BY DPE FREEZING THE DEARNESS ALLOWANCE EVEN IN THE CPSEs WHERE NO PAY REVISION TOOK PLACE FOR YEARS TOGETHER– REQUESTS EXEMPTION IN THE CPSEs WHERE NO PAY REVISION TOOK PLACE: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Prime Minister of India expressing its inability to appreciate and accept the Orders issued by Department of Public Enterprises freezing IDA even in the CPSEs in which no pay scale revision took place for last several years. The Association has pointed out that ‘The last pay revision in the CPSEs was ordered with effect from 01.01.2017. But it was not implemented in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and many other CPSEs. Therefore, the employees of these CPSEs are worst affected compared to those CPSEs in which pay scale revision has been implemented. Even in case of the Central Government Employees, though Dearness Allowance has been frozen, pay revision had already taken place w.e.f. 01.01.2016. As such the impact of freezing of DA in case of CG employees and also in the cases of the Employees of the CPSEs in which pay scale revision has taken place is much less compared to the employees of CPSEs in which no pay revision has taken place’. The Association has further stated that these IDA Pensioners are already facing the heat due to spiralling prices and gradual increase of medical expenses and requested to exempt the CPSEs in which no pay revision has taken place for years together from the purview of the Order freezing the Dearness Allowance. [View the letter](#)

19.11.2020 FILING OF INCOME TAX RETURNS BY THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES-AIBSNLREA WRITES TO GENERAL MANAGER (CA), BSNL EITHER TO WITHDRAW BSNL'S WRONG CLAIM IN FORM 26-AS STATING THAT SOME AMOUNT HAS BEEN CREDITED OR MAKE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF ALL OUTSTANDING DUES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019-20 TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to General Manager (CA), BSNL Corporate Office regarding the problems being faced by the retired BSNL Employees in filing their Income Tax Returns for the assessment year 2020-21 due to wrong claim made by BSNL in Form- 26 AS stating that some amount have been credited to the retired employees even though no amount has actually been credited to them. The Association has pointed out that in response to a RTI Query, vide Registration No. BSNLD/R/E/20/01364, BSNL has admitted that "... But payment for the same has not been made since April-2019 onwards for want of Funds. The payment will be released and same will be credited to applicant account as soon as fund made available" and demanded that BSNL now must correct its wrong statement in Form-26 AS in regard to its false claim as having credited some amount while actually crediting none. The Association has further requested that BSNL should now take some corrective actions either by withdrawing its wrong claim in Form-26 AS in which it has been stated that some amount has been credited or making immediate payment of all the outstanding dues for the financial year 2019-20 to the retired employees. [View the letter](#)

16.11.2020 AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF CLARIFICATIONS ISSUED TO CALCUTTA TELEPHONES FOR FIXATION OF PAY OF THE OFFICIATING JTOs WHO EXERCISED OPTION UNDER PARA 3.6 OF BSNL NO. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) DATED 07.05.2010 FOR FIXATION OF THEIR PAY IN THE REVISED PAY SCALE FROM THE DATE OF THEIR PROMOTION AFTER 01.01.2007: AIBSNLREA has taken up the above issue with Sr General Manager (Estt), BSNL. The Association has pointed out that despite issue of clear clarifications to Calcutta Telephones on the above issue, vide No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020, the ordeal of the affected retired Executives, who were promoted as regular JTOs in 2008, is far from over. Though these clarifications were issued only on the request from Calcutta Telephones, now it is not allowing the benefit of pay-fixation extended to the officiating JTOs as clarified at Sl No. (b) of in the above referred Office letter dated 28.10.2020. in this case, since these Officials were promoted in the year 2008 as JTOs, they are entitled to receive their pay fixation as per their option exercised under Para 3.6 of BSNL No. 1-16/2010-PAT (BSNL) dated 07.05.2010. In fact, initially their pay was correctly fixed as per their option exercised under Para 3.6 of the BSNL Order dated 07.05.2010. But just before their retirement, the earlier pay-fixations were revised and pay refixed as per BSNL Order No. 3-32/2013-Estt-IV dated 22.12.2015 which is totally wrong. The Association has further pointed out that pay fixation under FR 22(1)(a)(i) was extended to the Officiating JTOs, who were initially allowed officiating pay fixation only under FR-35, as per the various Orders of Principal CAT, New Delhi. The BSNL Order No. 3-32/2013-Estt-IV dated 22.12.2015 was also issued as a follow up of these Pr. CAT Orders. BSNL Office Order No. 3-8/2010-Estt-IV(Pt) dated 18.09.2018, which was issued to extend the benefits of pay-fixation under FR-22(1)(a)(i) to all similarly placed officials following dismissal of SLP in Supreme Court, has a clear mention about this fact and the Order dated

22.12.2015. Therefore, BSNL Office Order No. 3-32/2013-Estt-IV dated 22.12.2015 is not for substitution of pay-fixation under Para 3.6 of BSNL No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010. AIBSNLREA has, thus, requested to advise Calcutta Telephones to immediately restore the initial pay-fixations, which were allowed to the affected officiating JTOs who exercised option under Para 3.6 of Office Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010, strictly in accordance with the clarification that has been issued at Sl No. (b) of BSNL No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.10.2020. [View the letter](#)

15.11.2020 AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (PENSION) REGARDING BSNL'S SURPRISE ACTION TO DEPRIVE THE BENEFIT OF COUNTING OF PERIOD SPENT ON TRAINING FOR PENSION AS PROVIDED UNDER RULE 22 OF CCS (PENSION) RULES, 1972 TO SHRI AJAY KUMAR DEBEY, RETD AGM, AGRA TELECOM DISTRICT: AIBSNLREA has now sought the intervention of Secretary (Pension), since repeated request of the Association to BSNL Management to restore the Order issued by UP (West) Telecom Circle condoning the administrative delay in between completion of pre-appointment training and regular appointment for counting training period for pensionary benefits, as provided under Rule-22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, is receiving no response. The Association has pointed out that as per Rule-22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, the pre-appointment training period for all Group C and D Employees are counted as service for the purpose of pension. Subsequently, DOP&PW had further agreed for condonation of break period between completion of pre-appointment training and issue of appointment letters purely due to the administrative delay. Accordingly, DOT had issued Orders in this respect vide its No. 14/88-NB/T/Pen dated 25.06.1990 for condonation of the break period. Since then the Telecom Circles, being the recruiting and appointment authority of the Group C and D Employees, are condoning the administrative delay in issuing the appointment letter after completion of prescribed pre-appointment training. But now the Establishment Branch of BSNL Corporate Office singled out the case of Shri Ajay Kumar Dubey, Retd AGM, Agra Telecom District and ordered vide its No. 252-02/2020/Estt-III dated 19.02.2020 to cancel the Order issued by UP (West) Telecom Circle condoning the administrative delay and thus deprive him to get the benefit of pension as provided under Rule-22 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. Referring to its earlier representations to BSNL on which no positive action has been taken, AIBSNLREA has now requested Secretary (Pension) to advise BSNL Corporate Office to allow UP (West) Telecom Circle to restore its earlier Order condoning the period of break between completion of the pre-appointment training and issue of appointment letter due to administrative delay in respect of Shri A K Dubey, Retd AGM, Agra Telecom District at the earliest. [View the letter](#)

11.11.2020 AIBSNLREA NOW TAKES UP WITH SECRETARY (PENSION) THE CASE FOR NON-SETTLEMENT OF PAYMENT OF BALANCE AMOUNT OF GPF CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD 03.12.1980 TO 30.09.1990 ALONG WITH ACCRUED INTEREST TO SHRI V VELAPPAN, RETD DGM, TAMILNADU CIRCLE: Being unsatisfied with the reply received vide No. TAC/GPF/Gen.Corr/2014-17/25 dated 21.09.2020 from Tamilnadu Circle, in response to the Grievance Docket No. PMOPG/D/2020/0068622, stating that since all GPF records were

destroyed in a major fire accident during February, 1998 at Coimbatore, the Circle Office is not in a position to intimate the proof of GPF contributions by the above named pensioner to DOT, AIBSNLREA has now taken up the matter with Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW. The Association has submitted that destruction of records because of fire accident cannot be a valid plea to deny the pensioner of his hard-earned money. Moreover, the pensioner is no way concerned with the accident. The Pensioner has official records of GPF deductions in the form of GPF balance sheets, pay-slips and also transfer of GPF contributions deducted from October, 1990 by MTNL Mumbai to DMT, Coimbatore. Tamilnadu Circle cannot deny the authenticity of these records/documents and should make payment of balance amount of GPF amount to Shri V Velappan, Retd DGM. [View the letter](#)

09.11.2020 AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY, DPE FOR EARLY ISSUE OF ORDERS REVISING THE IDA RATES W.E.F. 01.10.2020: AIBSNLREA has taken up the above issue with Secretary, Dept of Public Enterprises. The Association has stated that the Dept of Public Enterprises had been meticulously issuing Orders revising the rates of IDA for the employees of CPSEs within the first week of the month in each quarter on which these became due. But the Orders revising the rates of IDA, which became due with effect from 1st October 2020, has not been issued which has caused frustration in the serving as well retired CPSE employees. The Association has requested to cause early issue of the Orders. [View the letter](#)

09.11.2020 ISSUE OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION ORDER, GRANT OF FINAL PENSION AND OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS ON COMPLETION OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS-AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF SHRI S V ROJED, RETD SDE, QA CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA has since taken up the case for issue of final superannuation Order, grant of final pension and other pensionary benefits to Shri S V Rojed, Retd SDE, Quality Assurance Circle who was earlier permitted to retire provisionally on 31.03.2012. He was also acquitted of the Charges, along with all other accused, in a Court case on 25.10.2018 by the Special CBI Court at Dharwar, Karnataka. The Association has cited the cases of S/Shri S B Mohare, Retd AO and M Mathuramani, Sr AO who were also acquitted by the same Court in the same case on the same date. In their cases, BSNL Corporate Office has already issued their final superannuation Orders. [View the letter](#)

08.11.2020 RESTORATION OF PAY-FIXATION EARLIER ALLOWED TO THE ERSTWHILE TTAs OFFICIATING AS JTOs SINCE RETIRED AS EXECUTIVES OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONBES WHO EXERCISED OPTION FOR THEIR PAY-FIXATION UNDER PARA 3.6 OF BSNL ORDER NO. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) DATED 07.05.2020-AIBSNLREA ADDRESSES CGM, CALCUTTA TELEPHONES FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLARIFICATION DATED 28.10.2020 ISSUED BY BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE AND RESTORE THE PAY-FIXATIONS ALLOWED EARLIER: Following issue of clarification by BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-A/16(27)/12/2020-ESTAB dated 28.08.2020, AIBSNLREA has requested Chief General Manager, Calcutta Telephones for early restoration of pay-fixation that was earlier correctly allowed to the concerned affected retired Executives who had exercised option for their pay-fixation on their regular promotion as JTOs under Para 3.6 of BSNL Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2020. The

Association has pointed out that BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. BSNLCO-A/11(11)/13/2020-ESTAB dated 27.10.2020, has now even allowed one-time relaxation to exercise option under Para 3.6 of BSNL Office Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010 for fixation of pay under 2nd PRC to the officiating JTOs of Kerala Circle promoted as regular JTOs during the period from 01.01.2007 up to 07.05.2010. Thus, there should be no reason to doubt validity and applicability of pay-fixation under Para 3.6 of BSNL Office Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT(BSNL) dated 07.05.2010 to the TTAs of Calcutta Telephones who were officiating as JTOs and promoted as regular JTOs in 2008 based on the option that they exercised. The Association has further requested to process their pension papers accordingly and make other payments expeditiously. [View the letter](#)

07.11.2020 AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING REFUSAL BY DOT TO ADDRESS THE GRIEVANCE LODGED IN PG PORTAL BASED ON ITS EARLIER REPRESENTATION: AIBSNLREA has since sent a representation to the Prime Minister of India as DOT has closed the Grievance Docket lodged in PG Portal based on its earlier representation to him in the matter of issue of similar Orders, as issued by Department of Posts, directing the Pay & Accounts Officers in the Offices of CCAs to strictly adhere to the provision in Rule 7.3.2, under Chapter-7 of the 'Civil Accounts Manual for the HOD and Pay and Accounts Officer'. Rule 7.3.2 under Chapter-7 of the 'Civil Accounts Manual for the HOD and Pay and Accounts Officer' mandated that while verifying the service records and application of prescribed checks with reference to the applicable Pension Rule, the PAO in no case should go back to a period earlier than a maximum of 24 months. But this provision of the Rule is very often being violated which creates avoidable problems to the pensioners. In this case, the Dy CCA, o/o Pr. CCA, Delhi Region, to whom the Grievance was forwarded, had even acknowledged in the Remarks column of the Grievance Docket that "The issue in the grievance document concerns all the offices of Pr. CCA/CCA under Dept of Telecommunication. It is not particular to CCA, New Delhi and he cannot take decision on an all India issue. As such, the Grievance Docket should be dealt only by DOT Headquarters which is competent to issue the Orders as requested". But surprisingly, Department of Telecommunication without taking any further action on the matter at its end has closed this Grievance Docket. Thus, the Grievance remained unattended and unresolved. The Association has requested that DOT also issue similar Orders, as issued by Dept of Posts, to protect the BSNL IDA Pensioners from being unnecessary harassed and also to reduce number of ever-increasing grievances. [View the letter](#)

03.11.2020 AIBSNLREA SEEKS INTERVENTION OF SECRETARY (PENSION) IN THE MATTER OF REFUSAL BY BSNL TO EXAMINE AND REDRESS THE GRIEVANCES OF THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW drawing his attention and seeking intervention in the matter of refusal by BSNL to examine and redress the genuine grievances of the BSNL IDA pensioners by using a common phrase "It is the Policy matter of BSNL" in the Remarks of column of the Grievance Dockets while disposing of the same. Association has also annexed a list of such cases in which BSNL disposed of the Grievance Dockets lodged in CPENGRAMS and PG Portal with the same comment in the Remark column of these Dockets. The Association has contended that 'BSNL

seems to be following a Policy to put the Grievances of the pensioners lodged in CPENGRAMS/PG Portal in cold storage by using the same phrase “It is the Policy matter of BSNL’. If this continues, the very purpose of introduction of Grievance Redressal Mechanism by the Government will get defeated’. The Association has also requested to advise BSNL to be reasonable and sensible in addressing the grievances of the pensioners and suggested that let DOP&PW consider holding a meeting to discuss the pending grievances in the presence of the BSNL Officers competent to take decision on these grievances. [View the letter](#)

02.11.2020 AIBSNLREA APPEALS TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA TO SANCTION SPECIAL FUND TO BSNL TO CLEAR ALL THE PENDING MEDICAL CLAIMS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYTEES:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of the Prime Minister of India to the hard reality that ‘despite Government’s various measures and decision for revival of BSNL, the situation still remains the same as before. Though nearly 80,000 BSNL employees were virtually sent out under BSNL VRS-2019 on 31.01.2020 and BSNL saving huge amount on the salary head and pension contribution on them to DOT, the crisis is far from over. It seems that BSNL Management is clueless to tackle the situation’. The Association has further submitted that “In the process, the retired BSNL employees, who are beneficiaries of BSNLMRS, are the worst victims. Though recently BSNL Management allotted Fund to clear the pending medical claims up to 31.03.2020 of its serving employees, it is not reimbursing the medical claims of the retired employees almost for last two years. Though no rule, law or ethics permits such blatant discrimination against the elders..” Whenever request is being made to clear the long pending claims of the retired employees, pat comes the reply that there is no Fund available or it is a Policy matter of BSNL. The Association has also stated that “The retired employees, who were admitted in Hospitals for serious chronic diseases like cancer, heart ailment, kidney, liver and many others including Covid-19 like life-threatening and expensive treatment and were forced to spend huge amount by arranging from different sources, are now facing serious trouble since BSNL has stopped reimbursing their claims. In addition, claims for outdoor treatment for follow up treatment or for chronic diseases also need to be cleared immediately. The Association has made an appeal to allot special Fund to BSNL for the sole purpose of clearing all the pending medical claims of the retired employees with the arrangement that BSNL would refund the said Fund to the Government in due course. [View the letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

25.11.2020 CENTRAL PENSION ACCOUNTS OFFICE ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING MARKING OF PPO NUMBER IN THE BANK PASSBOOK OF THE PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS: Based on the representations received from Pensioners and many Pensioners’ Associations that the bank branches are not recording the PPO number in the passbook of the pensioners/family pensioners, Central Pension Accounts Office under Department of Expenditure, vide its No. CPAO/IT & Tech/Bank Performance/37 (Vol-III)A/2020-21 dated 23.11.2020, has asked Heads of all CPCCs and Govt. Business Departments to instruct all their bank

branches dealing with pension payment to record PPO number in all the passbooks of the pensioners/family pensioners issued by them. [View the CPAO Order.](#)

23.11.2020 DOP&PW ORDERS FURTHER EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF LIFE CERTIFICATES BY THE GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS TILL FEBRUARY, 2021: In view of Covid-19 pandemic, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its OM No. 18/1/2020-P&PW(H)-Vol-III-6786 dated 23.11.2020, has ordered further extension of period for submission of Life Certificates by the Government pensioners from 31st December, 2020 to 28th February, 2021. [View the DOP&PW Order.](#)

20.11.2020 BSNL SEEKS INFORMATION FROM ALL TELECOM CIRCLES/TERRITORIAL CIRCLES/DISTRICTS REGARDING BREAK UP OF PENDING LIABILITY OF HOSPITAL VENDORS AND RETIREES: BSNL Corporate Office, vide No. 16-05/2019/CBB/BB/Gen Corr. dated 19.11.2020, has asked all its Telecom Circles/Territorial Circles/ District to furnish break up of pending liability of Hospital vendors and Retirees – Post retirement in prescribed formats within three days from the date of issue of the Order. [View the BSNL letter](#)

19.11.2020 DPE ORDERS FREEZING OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO CPSE EMPLOYEES AT CURRENT RATES TILL 30TH JUNE, 2021: Department of Public Enterprises, vide its No. W-02/0039/2017-DPE(WC)-G-XVI/20 dated 19.11.2020, has ordered freezing of Dearness Allowance to the CPSE employees due from 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 and 01.04.2021. As a result, the IDA due from 01.10.2020 shall not be paid. As and when the decision to release the future instalment of Dearness Allowance is taken by the Government, the rates of Dearness Allowance as effective from 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 and 01.04.2021 will be restored prospectively and will be subsumed in the cumulative revised rates effective from 01.07.2021. However, no arrears for the period 01.10.2020 till 30.06.2021 shall be paid. [View the DPE Order](#)



ACTION ON REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA

05.11.2020 GULBARGA TELECOM DISTRICT INTIMATES SETTLEMENT OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION, RELEASE OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT, DCRG AND COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSION IN RESPECT OF SHRI I S NAVALI, RETD SR. SDE, GULBARGA: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issues which remained unsettled for long two years and The Association had also been following up the same from time to time. Now Gulbarga Telecom District of Karnataka Telecom Circle, in a communication, vide No. AGM[OP]/CPGRAMS/25 dated 29.10.2020, has confirmed settlement of these cases. [View the letter](#)

BRANCH ACTIVITIES



Varanasi Branch (UP State) of AIBSNLREA held a GB Meeting on 10.11.2020 at CTX Building, Cantt, Varanasi under the chairmanship of Shri A S Gaur, VP, UP State Branch and discussed organizational and other issues. Following resignation of Shri B N Singh from the post of President of the Branch due to his ill-health, Shri P M Ansari, Retd DGM(F) was elected unanimously as the President of the branch. S/Shri Shyam Lal Pal and Sharda Prasad joined the Association as Life Members. Earlier, two minutes silence was observed in memory of departed members Late Bechan Ram and Late B B Singh and also wife of Shri B Prasad.



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED IN NOVEMBER, 2020

Alwar-Bharatpur Branch (Rajasthan State) has deposited Rupees eight hundred (Rs. 800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate (Canara) Bank on 25.11.2020 as CHQ quota for four new Life Members.

Shri Manohar Lal Malhotra, Retd Jt DDG(IA), BSNL Corporate Office has paid Rupees five hundred fifty (Rs. 550/-) only by Cheque dated 28.10.2020 drawn on UCO Bank for Life Membership and Admission Fee which has since been credited in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 24.11.2020.

West Bengal State Branch has deposited Rupees twelve thousand (Rs. 12,000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate (Canara) Bank on 10.11.2020 as CHQ quota for sixty new Life Members.

Prayagraj (Allahabad) Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees four hundred (Rs. 400/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate (Canara) Bank on 09.11.2020 as CHQ quota for two new Life Members.

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