

THE HIEGHT OF ABSURDITY

Believe it or not, referring to the Presidential Order issued by Department of Telecommunications vide its OM No. 61-01/2012/SU dated 10.6.2013, one Association has submitted before PCAT, Delhi that “as per the above said orders dated 10.6.2013, fixation of pay was done for all serving employees as on 10.6.2013 notionally from 1.1.2007.” The said Association has also submitted that “accordingly BSNL also issued two orders vide No. 1-50/2008-PAT (BSNL) dated 10.6.2013 for Executives and another Order No. 1-16/2010-PAT (BSNL) dated 10.6.2013 for non-executives. As per all these orders fixation of pay by merging 78.2% IDA was to be done from 01.1.2007 on notional basis”. When neither DPE OM dated 02.04.2009 nor DOT’s OM dated 10.06.2013 and even BSNL’s Orders never used the term “notional”, how and why they submit before the PCAT that these orders were for notional fixation? If one goes through the pay fixation memos issued by BSNL to its employees, in accordance with these Orders, will find nowhere that the pay-fixations were declared as “notional”. It is also in public domain that BSNL once in a written communication to DOT had categorically stated that the pay-fixation with fitment benefit my merger of 78.2% IDA to the serving employees was not “notional”. Conspicuously, this Association has also not challenged the DOT’s Presidential Order dated 10.06.2013 which was issued in contravention of Department of Public Enterprises OM dated 02.04.2009 allowing fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA as on 1.1.2007. We all know that same fitment benefit for pay fixation which is allowed for serving employees is also extended to the retired employees for fixation of their pension/family pension. Now, if according to this Association, the pay fixation Orders with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA for the serving employees is “notional”, quite logically the pension fixation order for the retired employees (pensioners/family pensioners) will also be “notional”. Thus, indirectly/directly, they have tried to justify the action of DOT in calling the Order dated 18.07.2016 for revision of pension as “notional” and also proving that there was no discrimination between the serving employees and pensioners in the matter of extending the benefit of pay fixation by merger of 78.2% IDA. This will also weaken the case for enhanced pensionary benefits like DCRG, CVP and leave encashment on last pay drawn, to the employees (pensioners) who retired after 1.1.2007 and before 10.06.2013. Their submission before PCAT Delhi is therefore absurd and ridiculous.