

**APPLICABILITY AND IMPACT OF DOP&PW OM DATED
28.01.2013 ON REVISION OF PENSION/FAMILY PENSION
OF ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS**

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Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has released an OM on 28th January 2013 (vide its OM No. 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 28.01.2013) on revision of pension/family pension for pre 2006 Government Pensioners. Since the pension/family pension of the BSNL absorbed Pensioners is also based on CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, some queries have been received by us about the applicability and the impact of the said OM of DOP&PW on the BSNL pensioners.

The said DOP&PW OM dated 28.01.2013 contains three issues:-

- (1) Revised Pension is to be minimum 50 % of the minimum pay of the revised pay scale.
- (2) Revised family pension is to be minimum 30 % of the minimum pay of the revised pay scale.
- (3) A concordance table showing minimum pension and minimum family pension.

The benefit as in Point No. (1) is already in existence since 1996. This has also been mentioned in pension revision order for pre-2007 absorbed BSNL Pensioners issued by DoT vide its No. 40-17/2008-Pen(T)-Vol.III dated 15.03.2011, wherein a table showing minimum pension being 50 % of minimum pay of the revised pay scale is annexed.

The benefit as at Point No.(2) is already available in DOP&PW OM dated 03.10.2008. But this has not been mentioned in the pension revision order of the pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners issued by DOT vide its No 40-17/2008-Pen(T)-Vol.III dated 15.03.2011. While issuing the Order No. 40-17/2008-Pen(T)-Vol.III dated 15.03.2011 for revision of pension of pre-2007 BSNL pensioners, DoT anyhow omitted this point. **This will affect only those BSNL pensioners who retired prior to 2007 in pre-revised E- 7 Scale (SG DGM) and above.** This is so because the scales E 7 and above were substantially hiked in pay revision effective from 01.01.2007.

AIBSNLREA has already taken up this issue with DOP&PW and also with DoT for extending this benefit to pre-2007 absorbed BSNL pensioners. Please

refer to AIBSNLREA letters/reminders to DoT and DOP&PW posted in its website on 22.08.2012, 20.09.2012 and further reminder on 01.02.2013 on the issue.

Point No.(3) is a revised Concordance table mentioning the minimum pension and minimum family pension for each pre revised scale in case of Central Government pensioners. In fact such a concordance table was already given for Central Govt. pensioners in DOP&PW OM dated 14.10.2008. But there was a problem in it. Since 6th CPC clubbed together a number of pay scales to form a pay band, there was a problem in the table. The minimum 50 % pension and 30 % family pension was worked on the minimum of the pay in the pay band. Since a number of scales were clubbed together as a pay band, this seriously affected many who were in the higher scales in each pay band. Now by this revised OM, this anomaly has been removed for pre 2006 Central Government pensioners. As per this OM, the minimum pension and minimum family pension is to be worked out for each individual pre revised scale instead of the pay band. Of course, this applies only to central Govt. pensioners. It is in no way concerned with the pre 2007 BSNL pensioners.

We have, however, requested DoT to issue a similar table for minimum pension and minimum family pension for those absorbed BSNL pensioners who retired prior to 2007, since table annexed with the pension revision order No. 40-17/08-Pen(T)-Vol.III dated 15.03.2011 issued by DoT for absorbed BSNL pensioners mentions only about minimum pension and not for minimum family pension.

The pension of absorbed BSNL pensioners is based on the provisions in CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 but it is in IDA pay scales. The relevant provisions in CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 on the current issues under discussions i.e. on Point No.(1) and Point No (2) above, remain the same even on issue of the OM dated 28.01.2013. In fact, no further change in the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 has been communicated by DOP&PW in its OM dated 28.01.2013.

The issue of a revised concordance table as mentioned at Point No. (3) above is due to revision of Pay Scales of the Central Government Employees made under the concept of pay band. Such problem is not there in case of PSUs like BSNL, since there are individual revised pay scale for each corresponding pre revised pay scale. Therefore, there is no direct implication of the said DOP&PW OM dated 28.01,2013 on pre 2007 retired BSNL employees on their pension except on family pension of the employees with E-7 and above pay scales.

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