



## Editorial

### PAY REVISION vis-à-vis PENSION REVISION

Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pay Revision Committee for revision of pay scales of the Executives of CPSEs w.e.f. 1.1.2017 was submitted to the Government about two months back. The Government on its part has started examining the recommendations but is yet to take any final decision on those recommendations of 3<sup>rd</sup> the PRC. But certainly, the Government has started its exercises. This is evident from the fact that the DPE has asked DOT to examine the points raised by AIBSNLOA, an Association of the BSNL Executives, and send its comments to it regarding non-applicability of affordability clause as recommended by the PRC to BSNL in view of strategic importance of BSNL which is implementing the social obligations of the Government by providing services in rural and remote areas in spite of incurring loss because of these services.

In fact, unless some relaxation or modifications to this affordability clause is made, there is little hope that BSNL employees will get immediate pay revision. But we are hopeful that Government will look into such situations before taking a final call on the recommendations as it did with the 2<sup>nd</sup> PRC Report.

We are expecting a host of activities in both BSNL and DOT once the DPE gets Cabinet approval of its conclusions on the recommendations of PRC and finally issues the

much-needed orders to the CPSEs to implement the decisions. But in BSNL, the pay scales of JTO equivalents and SDE equivalents, ever since 2<sup>nd</sup> PRC Report was implemented, are still hanging fire. Recently, DOT issued Presidential Orders approving E-1 and E-2 pay scales to the JTO-equivalents and SDE-equivalents respectively though they were initially granted E-1A and E-2A pay scales which were slightly higher than E-1 and E-2 pay scales. This is a unique instance where pay scales of some cadres have been downgraded after almost 10 years. Though, the DOT has reluctantly agreed now to review its decision, the fact remains that uncertainty on this issue might have some impact in future revision.

Apart from pay scales, fitment factor is more important to all of us. The PRC has recommended a fitment factor of 15%. However, this will give benefit only when BSNL is not discriminated against the other profit making PSUs in the matter of pay scales and other issues. Moreover, we may need to ask for the fitment benefit with the option clause for pension revision as being allowed to the CG Employees now.

Thus, we are still at a very early stage to get the pension revision issue initiated and settled. At this moment, we need only to keep a watch on the developments and act as the situation demands.

## **CABINET APPROVES MODIFICATION IN PENSION AND PENSION BENEFITS TO THE PRE-2016 PENSIONERS AND FAMILY PENSIONERS:**

In our website on 21.04.2017, we reported that Cabinet is all set to issue a revised method for revision of pension of the pre-2017 pensioners and family pensioners in the background of the 7 CPC recommendations. On 3.5.2017, Cabinet has approved a modified formulation of pension revision, based on suggestions made by the Committee chaired by Secretary (Pensions) constituted with the approval of the Cabinet, which will reportedly entail an additional benefit to the pensioners and an additional expenditure of approximately ₹5031 crore for 2016-17 over and above the expenditure already incurred in revision of pension as per the second formulation based on fitment factor. It will benefit over 55 lakh pre-2016 civil and defence pensioners and family pensioners.

While approving the implementation of the 7th CPC recommendations on 29th June, 2016, the Cabinet had approved the changed method of pension revision recommended by the 7th CPC for pre-2016 pensioners, comprising of two alternative formulations, subject to the feasibility of the first formulation which was to be examined by the Committee. In terms of the Cabinet decision, pensions of pre-2016 pensioners were revised as per the second formulation multiplying existing pension by a fitment factor of 2.57, though the pensioners were to be given the option of choosing the more beneficial of the two formulations as per the 7th CPC recommendations.

In order to provide the more beneficial option to the pensioners, Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of the Committee, which has suggested revision of pension based on information contained in the Pension Payment Order (PPO) issued to every pensioner. The revised procedure of fixation of notional pay is said to be more scientific, rational and implementable in all the cases. The Committee has reached its findings based on an analysis of hundreds of live pension cases. According to a report by the Press Information Bureau, the modified formulation will be beneficial to more pensioners than the first formulation recommended by the 7th CPC, which was not found to be feasible to implement on account of non-availability of records in a large number of cases and was also found to be prone to several anomalies.

## **GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS**

**RESTORATION OF EXTENSION OF WITHOUT VOUCHER FACILITY TO RETIRED EMPLOYEES:** BSNL has restored the facility of medical claims without voucher for outdoor treatment to the retired Employees. [View posting dated 11.04.2017 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

**REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2017:** DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2017 from 119.5% to 117.1% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. [View posting dated 06.04.2017 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

**REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.4.2017:** DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.4.2017 from 270.7% to 266.7% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. [View posting dated 06.04.2017 in this website to read the DPE Order](#)

## **ISSUES TAKEN UP**

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE OF ANOMALY IN FIXATION OF PENSION OF DOT EMPLOYEES ABSORBED IN BSNL RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.07.2001:** AIBSNLREA has again taken up the above issue with Secretary (Pension),

DOP&PW which is under discussion in SCOVA meetings for last so many years. The Association refers to the minutes of the last SCOVA meeting and requests Secretary (Pension) that “Considering the fact that this issue is a very long pending one and should have been settled long before, we earnestly request you to kindly intervene so that the matter is resolved now”. [View posting dated 15.04.2017 in this website to read the letter](#)

**DENIAL/NON-RESTORATION OF BENEFIT OF SECOND ACP TO THE RETIRED CIVIL WING EXECUTIVES OF BSNL BY WEST BENGAL CIVIL ZONE, BSNL, KOLKATA ON FLIMSY GROUNDS - AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER ON THE ISSUE:** Being unsatisfied on the inaction of DOT and BSNL to address the grievance taken up by the Association at their own level and also being unsatisfied with the reply given by the BSNL Civil Zone, Kolkata, AIBSNLREA has taken up the issue with Prime Minister of India. The Association has urged that “..... we earnestly appeal to your kind self to intervene in the matter so that the Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (Corporate Office) examine the issues as detailed in our enclosed representation only at their end and render justice to the concerned affected pensioners”. In this regard, postings dated 30.01.2017 and 09.04.2017 in this website may also be viewed. [View posting dated 13.04.2017 in this website to read the letter](#)

## RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

**PMO FORWARDS AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION REGARDING DENIAL OF 2nd ACP TO SOME RETIRED CIVIL WING EXECUTIVES OF WEST BENGAL:** Prime Minister’s Office has since forwarded AIBSNLREA’s representation dated 3.4.2017 on the above issue to Secretary, DOT [View posting dated 09.04.2017 in this website] [View posting dated 25.04.2017 in this website to read the PMO letter](#)

**BSNL RESTORES THE BENEFIT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS WITHOUT VOUCHER FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES- RELENTLESS EFFORT BY AIBSNLREA FINALLY BRINGS RESULT AFTER LONG FIVE AND HALF YEARS PURSUATION:** It may be recalled that BSNL, vide its Office Order No. 7-8/2010-EF/Part/1 dated 5.09.2011, had withdrawn the facility of medical claims without voucher for outdoor treatment both from the serving and the retired BSNL employees. AIBSNLREA not only protested against the Order but also demanded restoration of the benefit at least to the retired BSNL employees. In fact, this Association was first to raise the demand to restore the benefit to the retired BSNL employees in its letter addressed to CMD, BSNL [View posting dated 09.09.2011 in this website for confirmation]. During the last long five and half years, when others practically forgot the issue, AIBSNLREA constantly kept up the pressure. After the AIC at Bhubaneswar, the Association took up the issue in a resolution form with the Prime Minister of India and others. The Association also requested Director (HR), BSNL to grant a meeting to discuss this issue along with other issues. In this process, a meeting was granted by GM(Admn), BSNL Office on 20.12.2016 and the issue was discussed giving a positive signal [View posting dated 21.12.2016 for details]. Thereafter, the Association continued to pursue the issue and time to time status was given in the website. Now BSNL has issued Orders vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-22/14 dated 11.04.2017 restoring the facility initially for 6 months to the retired BSNL employees. [View posting dated 11.04.2017 in this website to read the BSNL order](#)

**ISSUE OF PENSIONERS’ IDENTITY CARD TO THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS IN REVISED FORMAT AND LINKING AADHAR NUMBER- DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION TO DOT ON THE ISSUE:** AIBSNLREA had last represented vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2017/03 dated 30.01.2017 for implementation of DOP&PW OM dated 12.08.2015 for issue of Pensioners’ Identity Card to the BSNL IDA pensioners [View posting dated 31.01.2017 in this website to read the representation]. Department of

Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has now forwarded the said representation to Director (Estt), Department of Telecommunications to take necessary action as per its OMs dated 12.08.2015 and 26.10.2016. [View posting dated 10.04.2017 in this website to read the DoP&PW letter](#)

**DENIAL/NON-RESTORATION OF BENEFIT OF SECOND ACP TO THE RETIRED CIVIL WING EXECUTIVES OF BSNL BY WEST BENGAL CIVIL ZONE, BSNL, KOLKATA ON FLIMSY GROUNDS - WEST BENGAL CIVIL ZONE REPLIES TO THE AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND STCKS TO ITS EARLIER STAND ON THE MATTER:** AIBSNLREA had last represented to the Prime Minister of India on the above issue wherein BSNL Civil Zone, Kolkata had arbitrarily withdrawn the benefit of second ACP granted to 16 of its retired SDEs (Civil) by deliberately linking the ACP Scheme with "BSNL MSRR 2009" with the issue which has no relevance in the present case. Moreover, DOP&T had already clarified that the regular service for the purpose of ACP was to be counted from the direct entry grade of the officials [view posting dated 30.01.2017 in this website to read the representation]. Now the West Bengal Civil Zone has replied to this representation reiterating its old stand on the matter. [View posting dated 09.04.2017 to read the letter](#)

## APPLICABILITY OF 33 YEARS OF QUALIFYING SERVICE FOR FULL PENSION

There has been some misunderstanding about the DoP&PW OM dated 6.4.2016 due to "revision of pension pre -2006 pensioners – delinking of revised pension from qualifying service of 33 years" appearing in the subject matter of the DOP&PW Order. In fact the said OM relates to only granting atleast 50% of minimum of the revised pay scale as revised pension for pre-2006 pensioners and not about delinking 33 years of service. Shri S Ratnasubramanian, AGS, AIBSNLREA has analysed the Orders and written an article to clear the doubts. Please read the article to know the correct position. [The Article is posted on 18.04.2017 in this website.](#)

## BRANCH ACTIVITIES

**GENERAL BODY MEETING OF LUCKNOW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD:** A General Body Meeting of Lucknow Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 20.4.2017 in the Jai Shankar Prasad Sabhagar of Bhatkhande Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Lucknow under the chairmanship of Shri M K Shukla. S/Shri Ambika Singh State Financial Secretary, Radhey Shyam Organising Secretary, Ashok Srivastava Financial Secretary and R S Agrawal actively participated in the deliberations. 54 members participated in the meeting and 7 new members were also enrolled as Life Members. Shri S P Singh Branch Secretary reported about the developments taken place during last 4 months. Except 7 members, all other members have already received their revised PPOs. The left out cases are also to be completed before the month end. The endorsement orders on pending cases by AO Railway Pension in DPA Office are likely to be issued by 15th of May 2017. The pending Medical bills are being paid in CGMT office and LWTD may also start payment in April 2017. Shri R S Arora, State Secretary informed that the pending IDA revision cases of Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kanpur, Ballia and Sultanpur are in progress. He also gave details of discussion with Joint CCA UP (E) Circle and AO Railway Pension in DPA Office Lucknow. At last, the meeting ended with vote of thanks presented by the President.

**AIBSNLREA, MEHSANA TD BRANCH HELD ITS GB MEETING:** Mehsana Telecom District Branch of Gujarat held its General Body meeting at Rotary Club Hall, Mehsana at 10.00 Hrs on 20.04.2017. 50 members attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Shri C.S.Patel Retd SDE. S/Shri P. B. Parmar, State President, A. B. Patel, State Secretary and B. M. Bhavsar, Org. Secretary (West) attended the

meeting. Shri P. B. Parmar, President apprised the house about the report of 3rd PRC, 78.2 % IDA pension fixation, Medical Reimbursement without vouchers and other matters, S/Shri A. B. Patel and B. M. Bhavsar also addressed the house. 19 new members joined the association. Shri M.T.Patel, State Finance Secretary along with Shri M.H.Soni Retd SDE enrolled these new members. S/Shri D.V.Prajapati Organizing Secretary and P.K.Chaudhry organized the meeting nicely and Shri B.M. Patel Retd AGM conducted the meeting. Shri D.M.Patel, State Vice President presented the vote of thanks. It was followed by Lunch. Thereafter, Shri P.B.Parmar along with other state office bearers met GMTD Mehsana and DGM (Fin) Mehsana and discussed the problem of pending medical bills.

**QUARTERLY GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, VADODARA BRANCH:** The Quarterly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Vadodara Branch was held on 10-04-2017, at Hotel Utsav. 77 members attended meeting. Shri R T Shah, Branch Secretary, Vadodara conducted the meeting and briefed the activities of Vadodara Branch. S/Shri Parmar, President and A B Patel State Secretary, Gujarat addressed the gathering and gave important information. The house decided to have next meeting with family to enjoy a musical evening with grand dinner. The house disbursed after taking lunch. After the meeting, S/Shri Parmar, President, State Secretary A B Patel, R T Shah, Branch Secretary and I A Patel, Ex. Member met PGM, Vadodara and discussed a pressing problem (non-payment of dental charges) of the pensioners of Vadodara SSA.

**AIBSNLREA, JUNAGADH BRANCH HELD ITS GB MEETING:** Junagadh branch of Gujarat held its Annual General Body meeting at Giriraj hotel Junagadh. 26 members attended the meeting with their family members. S/Shri P. B. Parmar, State President, A. B. Patel, State Secretary and B. M. Bhavsar Org. Secretary (West) attended the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Branch President Shri S. D. Kanabar and was addressed by Shri P. B. Parmar, President. He apprised the house about the report of 3rd PRC and other matters, S/Shri A. B. Patel and B. M. Bhavsar also addressed the house. Seven new members joined the association. Shri H. N. Herbha, Branch Secretary presented the vote of thank. Shri K. P. Dobriya Finance Secretary conducted the meeting. It was followed by dinner.

**ORGANISING SECRETARY (SOUTH), AIBSNLREA, CHQ MEETS JOINT CCA, HYDERABAD:** Shri Ch. Gandhi, Organizing Secretary (South), CHQ came all the way from Vishakhapatnam and met Joint CCA Mr Sampar at Hyderabad and discussed for about one hour about the pension revision cases by merger of 78.2% IDA and many other individual representations. The status of pension revision cases as on 30.03.2017 was as follows:- Pre-2007 Cases for both AP and Telangana : Cases received --- 3896, Cases settled ----3411, Cases pending ---- 485, and Post-2007 Cases for both AP and Telangana: Cases received ----7375, Cases settled ----2203, Cases pending ---5172. Jt CCA also informed that assistance of ten BSNL retired employees have also been taken to expedite the work. Jt CCA promised that the entire process will be completed by 31.05.2017. Shri Ch Gandhi thanked Jt CCA for settling most of the cases and also expediting the pending cases.

## STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING APRIL 2017

### Corrigendum:

It was reported in the e-journal, March 2017 issue that an amount of Rs. 400/- was deposited in the S/B Account of CHQ on 23.02.2017 by Palakad Branch. But this amount was actually deposited by **Udaipur** Branch (Rajasthan State). We regret the mistake.

**Palakkad Branch (Kerala State)** of AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs. 200/) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 26.4.2017 as quota for one new life member.

**Palakkad Branch (Kerala State)** of AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs. 600/-) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 26.4.2017 as quota for 3 new life members.

**Varanasi Branch (UP State)** of AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees One thousand (Rs. 1000/-) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 26.4.2017 as quota for 5 new life members.

**Bhopal Branch (MP State)** of AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees four thousand (Rs. 4000/-) only in the S/B Account of AIBSNLREA with Syndicate Bank on 7.4.2017 as quota for 20 new life members

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