



Editorial

ALL ROADS LEAD TO AIC BHUBANESWAR

On the very first day of July next, all of us shall be at Bhubaneswar to participate in our All India Conference. The two-day Conference will be an unique occasion for all us to stay under a common roof and remember our olden days when we together served both Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Many of us had no occasion to either meet or even talk for past so many years after our superannuation. We may now remember our olden days once again and have a feeling of nostalgia. Some of us may even get an opportunity to meet our old batch mates of the training centers and many past moments of joy and sorrow again may peep out of our memories. Since we are in an Association of homogenous group and fish of same pond, we are never lost in ocean of heterogeneous group with different thoughts and approach. The bondage of friendship and feeling of oneness among us are much much stronger than others.

The AIC will certainly give us an opportunity to deliberate on the issues which, as pensioners, are important to all of us. Though some chronic problems are still haunting us, our bags are not fully empty as well. There is no doubt that changes in CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 following

acceptance of VI CPC recommendations by the Government could bring some cheers in us. Notable among those are the method of calculation of pension, enhancement of DCRG, additional pension to the very senior pensioners etc. The absorbed BSNL pensioners could also get these benefits implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2006. The VII CPC recommendations may also ensure further improvement in DCRG and pension formulation policy. The Government has rekindled the hope of introducing a pension formulation policy in the line of VII CPC recommendations which is similar to OROP implemented for defence personnel.

When we talk of BSNL specific issues, our woes seem never ending. DOT has not only deceived the pensioners but also the serving employees by issuing a Presidential directive on fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA. It has not only deprived the serving employees of their dues, but also practically robbing the pensioners. Even the faulty proposal to give this benefit to the pensioners still has not reached the finality. The anomaly in fixation of pension of those who retired within 10 months of their absorption, non extending the benefit of deferred option to a section of the absorbed pensioners, non-restoration of medical allowance in lieu of outdoor

treatment are few of the areas which are creating irritation in the mind of the pensioners. The decision of the Government to allow payment of pension by the Government to the MTNL employees by allowing the MTNL executives to retain higher pay scales compared to the one stage lower pay scales granted to the BSNL

Executives w.e.f. 1.10.2000 till the next pay revision has created another anomaly.

The AIC will naturally have an in-depth analysis of all these issues and come up with concrete strategies to handle them. Let us join the AIC and contribute our maximum to make it a grand success.

CABINET NOTE ON PENSION REVISION

It is almost for a fortnight that the final cabinet note proposing revision of pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% DA of the pre-2007 pensioners and those retired after 1.1.2007 but before 10.06.2013, duly approved by MOC&IT and scrutinized by Cabinet Secretariat, is said to be ready for dispatch to Cabinet Secretariat. It is also reported that the file submitted to the senior Officers, after complying with the minor deficiencies as pointed out by the Cabinet Secretariat, did not come back to the concerned Section. Normally, such a long delay in returning the file back rarely happens. That is why lots of speculations are being made. Since it has been repeatedly claimed that there is no major deficiency in processing the Cabinet Note, it is expected that in the coming week Sanchar Bhawan will see flurry of activities to send the Note to the Cabinet Secretariat.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE OF NON-HOLDING OF PENSION ADALAT AT REGULAR INTERVALS BY THE PR CCAs/CCAs: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) bring to his notice that “the Pension Adalats are not being held on regular basis and no fixed interval to hold the Pension Adalat is being followed. Moreover, the pensioners/family pensioners are not getting timely information about holding of Pension Adalat and to file their grievances. Thus, the very purpose to introduce holding of Pension Adalat is being defeated”. The Association has also requested that “The Pr. CCAs/CCAs be advised to arrange holding of Pension Adalat on quarterly basis and give wide publicity about the venue, date and time of holding the Pension Adalat. In addition to the website of the Pr. CCAs/CCAs, the information may be uploaded in the websites of all Telecom Circles and even SSAs falling within the limit of the concerned Pr. CCAs/CCAs” [Posting dated 31.05.2016 in this website be viewed to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA SENDS AN APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA ON THE DEFERRED OPTION CASE OF THE GROUP C EMPLOYEES ABSORBED IN BSNL: AIBSNLREA has sent an appeal to President of India, copy of which has been endorsed to Prime Minister, MOC&IT and MOS(PP), on non-extending the benefit of option to retain CDA pay scale till their promotion or retirement whichever is earlier to the concerned pensioners which was offered to the Group C&D employees while inviting option for their absorption in BSNL. The Association has urged that “we seek for your kind intervention in the matter for immediate implementation of the said

offer. This must not have been denied once the absorption has already taken place. We, therefore, make an earnest appeal to you for an early restoration of the said benefit to the affected absorbed Group C Employees so that their pay and pensionary benefits are properly fixed and disbursed". [Posting dated 22.05.2016 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

ISSUE OF IDENTITY CARDS TO BSNL PENSIONERS – AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (PENSION) ON NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF DOP&PW OM DATED 12.08.2015: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension), vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2016/19 dated 18.05.2016, about inaction by DOT to get the Identity Cards issued to the absorbed BSNL pensioners in the revised format and linking the Aadhar number as prescribed in DOP&PW No. 41/21/2000-P&PW(D) dated 12.08.2015. The Association has also sought for the intervention of the Secretary (Pension) so that "DOT takes immediate action to get your above quoted orders implemented in respect of the absorbed BSNL pensioners whose pension is being paid by the Government under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972". [Posting dated 20.05.2016 in this website be viewed to read the letter.](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (PENSION) ABOUT INACTION OF DOT TO RESTORE THE BENEFIT OF 2nd ACP WRONGLY WITHDRAWN FROM SOME SDEs (CIVIL) OF WEST BENGAL CIRCLE: AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW about the inaction of Department of Telecommunications on the representation to restore the benefit of 2nd ACP granted to some retired Executives of Civil Wing, BSNL, West Bengal Circle. These executives were rightly granted the benefit of 2nd ACP in accordance with the rules, but subsequently the benefit was unjustifiably withdrawn. The Association had earlier taken up the issue with Secretary (Telecom), but there seems to be no action to resolve the matter. The Association now seeks the intervention of Secretary (Pension) to get this long pending grievance redressed. [Posting dated 10.05.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter.](#)

RESTORATION OF BENEFIT OF MEDICAL ALLOWANCE FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT WITHOUT VOUCHER FOR THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES - AIBSNLREA REQUESTS CMD, BSNL TO EXPEDITE DECISION ON THE ISSUE: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to the Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited requesting him for an early decision on the above long pending issue which is under consideration in Corporate Office since long. The Association, in its letter, has mentioned about the difficulties of the pensioners in their advanced age to get treatment at the clinics of the doctors, submit claims and pursue for their settlement in BSNL Offices. [Posting dated 02.05.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter.](#)

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM) FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE TO REMOVE THE ANOMALY IN FIXATION OF PENSION TO DOT EMPLOYEES ABSORBED IN BSNL WHO RETIRED BETWEEN 1.10.2000 AND 31.07.2001: AIBSNLREA has again written a letter to Secretary (Telecom) with a copy endorsed to Secretary (Pension) requesting him for an early settlement of the above issue which stands unresolved since long. The Association points out to the fact that in the minutes of the SCOVA meeting last held on 13.10.2015 and issued by DOP&PW

it was recorded that “DOT was asked to finalise the proposal by 31.10.2015.” The Association also mentions that BSNL vide its No. 40-27/2011-Pen(B) dated 13.04.2016 has informed AIBSNLREA that DoT in its letter dated 10/04/2015 had asked all Pr CCAs/CCAs to reconcile pension data with their Pension drawing authorities and Pension Sanctioning/Processing Authorities... . In the said background AIBSNLREA has now requested Secretary (Telecom) to resolve this genuine and long pending grievance of a section of absorbed BSNL pensioners early [Posting dated 01.05.2016 in this website may be viewed to read the letter.](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

BSNL SENDS REMINDER TO WEST BENGAL CIRCLE, KOLKATA REGARDING THE CASE OF WRONG FIXATION OF PAY/PENSION OF ARABINDA CHAUDHURY, RETD EE (CIVIL): In our posting dated 07.02.2016 in this website, we reported that PGM(BW) had written a letter dated 03.02.2016 to the CGMT, West Bengal Circle requesting to supply the copy of the Circle Office letter No. WB/TA/GE/PF/C(58)/86 dated 13.12.2006 with copy of the representation dated 22.08.2006 of Shri Arabinda Chowdhury and also to furnish detailed comments. Since the Corporate Office did not receive any communication from West Bengal Circle, Kolkata, it has issued a reminder to the CGMT, Kolkata vide its No. PF/Arabinda Choudhury/Rtd EE/M(BW-CPC)/2015 dated 12.5.2016 and also endorsed a copy to AIBSNLREA w.r.t. its letter dated 25.04.2016. [Posting dated 24.05.2016 in this website be viewed to read the BSNL letter](#)

MINISTRY OF FINANCE REPLIES TO THE LETTER OF AIBSNLREA ADDRESSED TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING REDUCTION OF RATES OF INTEREST IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN SAVINGS SCHEME: AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India expressing serious concern and deep anguish of the pensioners on the decision of the Government to reduce the rate of interest on deposits in Senior Citizens Saving Scheme. The Association had also appealed to the PM to restore the rate of interest on the deposits under Senior Citizens Savings Scheme. [View posting dated 21.03.2016 in this website to read the letter]. The PMO had also forwarded the said representation to Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare to take appropriate action on the matter [View posting dated 01/04/2016 in this website to read the PMO letter]. Now Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) has replied to our said representation and stated that “high small savings interest rates limit the banking sector’s ability to lower deposit rates in response to monetary policy of the Reserve Bank of India” and therefore “by quarterly re-fixing the Small Savings interest rates the transmission of the lower interest rates in the economy has been eased” to help India transition to a lower interest rate economy. It has further been stated in the reply that Government had taken a comprehensive view on the social goals of certain National Small Savings Schemes and the issue raised by the Association “is a policy related issue and the same has been noted.” [Posting dated 12.05.2016 in this website be viewed to read the MOF letter](#)

ORDERS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT/BSNL

DOT ENDORSES THE OM DATED 06.04.2016 ISSUED BY DOP&PW ON REVISION OF PENSION OF PRE-2006 PENSIONERS BY DELINKING OF REVISED PENSION FROM QUALIFYING SERVICE OF 33 YEARS: Department of Telecommunication has since endorsed, vide its No. 40-04/2013-Pen (T) dated 05.05.2016, the OM dated 06.04.2016 issued by Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare on revision of pension of pre-2006 pensioners by delinking of revised pension from qualifying service of 33 years. It may be recalled that AIBSNLREA had earlier vide its letter No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2016/14 dated 26.04.2016 [view posting dated 27.04.2016 in this website to read this letter] requested DDG (Estt), Department of Telecommunications to expedite its endorsement to Pr CCAs/CCAs and others. [Posting dated 10.05.2016 in this website be viewed to read the DOT Order.](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, TRICHY BRANCH HELD: AIBSNLREA Trichy Branch (Tamilnadu) held its first General Body meeting after its formation on 29th May 2016 at 5 PM at Trichy. Shri R.Venkataraman Rtd. DE Trichy presided over the meeting. Shri K.Meyyalahan Branch Secretary welcomed all the members present in the meeting. Shri S.Ratnasubramanian, Jt.Secretary CHQ addressed the meeting explaining various steps taken by CHQ on 78.2% fitment, confusion created by other pensioners' association in pension revision etc. Three new members joined the association in the meeting.

BIMONTHLY GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, RAIPUR BRANCH HELD: The bimonthly General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Raipur Branch (Chhattisgarh State) was held on 20th May 2016 at Gandhi Udyan. The meeting was presided over by the president Shri P Z Choradia, Retd. AGM. Large number of members attended the meeting. Shri G P Pandey Branch Secretary addressed the meeting. He gave detailed information about current issues such as development in long pending case of revision of pension with fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% DA . He also informed about holding of AIC at Bhubaneswar. Delegates were also selected to attend the AIC. Six new members also joined our association who were welcomed by one and all. The meeting ended with presentation of vote of thanks.

BIMONTHLY GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, AKOLA BRANCH HELD: AIBSNLREA Akola (MH) Branch held its Bimonthly General Body meeting on 10th May 2016 at 04.30 PM at the residence of Shri S.M. Harale Rtd. SDE Akola. Shri S.K. Kulkarni Rtd. DGM Buldhana presided over the meeting. About 20 members were present in the meeting. Shri A.G. Nema Branch Secretary welcomed all the members present in the meeting. Branch Secretary apprised about the latest position regarding the case of merger of 50% I.D.A. effectively amounting to 78.2%. Though the case after a long time could reach to the preparation of cabinet note level, everybody expressed unhappiness over working pattern of DOT. The house was informed about the AIC to be held at Bhubaneswar on 2nd and 3rd July 2016. The Branch Secretary also asked the willingness of

members to attend AIC. The members emphasized over re-implementation of payment of quarterly medical allowance without submission of vouchers. Shri S.K. Kulkarni, President of the meeting expressed his views and the meeting was adjourned with vote of thanks by Branch Secretary.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF LUCKNOW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA: Lucknow Branch of AIBSNLREA held a General Body meeting on 6.5.2016 in the Recreation Club at Kaiser Bagh Telephone Exchange Campus under the chairmanship of Jagdish Prasad. The House discussed at length on the orders for additional free calls and the unlimited calls offered during night hours and also the legal recourses to be taken on implementation of fixation benefit by merger of 78.2% DA w.e.f. 1.1.2007 after implementation of the proposal of the DOT. Undue delay in reimbursement of medical bills was also discussed. Shri R S Arora, State Secretary, while addressing the members, first briefed about the preparation of AIC in Bhubaneswar. He also informed the members that CHQ is already ready to move court once orders for 78.2% fitment benefit is ordered and implemented to get all the deficiencies removed. He also assured that he would again meet GM (Finance) to settle the pending medical claims. Forty nine members attended the meeting and four new life members also joined the Association. S/Shri Ambika Singh, State Finance Secretary, Radhey Shyam, Organizing Secretary, S P Singh, Branch Secretary, A K Shrivastava, Branch Finance Secretary and others also spoke.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, GUJARAT STATE BRANCH: Gujarat State Branch of AIBSNLREA held it's AGM on 02.05.2016 at Ahmedabad Medical Association Hall at Ahmedabad. The meeting started with lightening of lamp followed by prayer by Shri P K Shah Retd, AGM ATD. President Shri P. B. Parmar welcomed all the participants and informed about approval of Cabinet note on the proposal regarding merger of 78.2% for fitment of pension by Minister of Communications & IT. He appraised the members about AIC at Bhubaneswar and informed about dates of conference, delegate fee etc. and asked members to come forward to attend the AIC. He also informed about the activities of the Association during last six months. The House observed silence in memory of the departed members and family members of the Association. Out of forty four eligible senior Life Members who completed 70 years as on 31.03.2016 with minimum one year membership, twenty two members attended conference and they were honoured with bouquet and shawl. A presentation given by the Cardiac Surgeon of Apollo Hospital Ahmedabad was liked by all members. Secretary, Shri A. B. Patel addressed the gathering and gave brief report on the issues taken up with administration by the State Branch and CHQ. He gave latest information on the issue of Pension anomaly case of pensioners who retired during first ten months of formation of BSNL. Shri D. M. Patel, Vice President gave details on annual ceiling limit of medical reimbursement for Pre-2007 retirees and explained this. He also explained the admissibility of minimum pension to Pre-2006 retirees w. e. f. 01.01.2006 (including the pensioners' having less than 33 years of service). Shri J K Makeana Retd. DE gave details of "NEW DIET SYSTEM" for maintaining health without any medicine. Joint Secretary (West) CHQ Shri B. M. Bhavasar also addressed the house and gave his experience on this "NAVI

BHOJAN PRATHA" (NEW DIET SYSTEM). The meeting concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Shri Y. K. Patni, Jt. Secretary. The meeting was followed by a dinner. Total 240 members attended this meeting and 17 new members were got also enrolled. The magazine AIBSNLREA News, Gujarat Issue No. 7 was also published on this occasion.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF SANGRUR BRANCH HELD: A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Sangrur Branch was held on 24.4.2016 at Kaula Park, Sangrur. Two new life members (S/Shri H S Nijjar, Retd DE and Surjit Singh, Retd DE) were enrolled in the Branch meeting raising the total number of Life membership to 16. The members expressed their concern towards activities of the association and issue of benefit of merger 78.2% IDA with basic pension for the Pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 to 9.6.2013. The Branch also decided to take up two issues for discussions in the ensuing All India Conference.

STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED DURING MAY 2016

Pune Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees eighteen thousand (Rs 18,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 31.05.2016 towards AIC Delegate Fee for six (6) delegates.

Jabalpur Branch (Madhya Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees Ten thousand (Rs 10,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 30.05.2016 towards CHQ quota (Rs 4,000.00) for twenty (20) new life members and AIC Delegate Fee (Rs. 6,000.00) for 2 delegates.

Lucknow Branch (UP State) has deposited Rupees twelve thousand (Rs 12,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 27.05.2016 towards AIC Delegate Fee for four (4) delegates.

East Godavari Branch (AP State) has deposited Rupees eighteen thousand (Rs 18,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 26.05.2016 towards AIC Delegate Fee for six (6) delegates.

Amravati Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees nine thousand (Rs 9,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 26.05.2016 towards AIC Delegate Fee for three (3) delegates – one each from Amravati, Akola and Wardha.

Kurukshetra Branch (Haryana State) has deposited Rupees Six thousand (Rs 6,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 25.05.2016 towards AIC Delegate Fee for two (2) delegates.

Tiruchirapalli Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs 200.00) only in CHQ's Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 23.05.2016 towards CHQ quota for one (1) new life members.

West Bengal State Branch has deposited Rupees Twenty four thousand (Rs 24,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 19.05.2016 towards CHQ quota for one hundred twenty (120) new life members.

Kanpur Branch (Uttar Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees Six thousand six hundred (Rs 6600.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 18.05.2016 towards CHQ quota (Rs 600.00) for three (3) new life members and AIC Delegate Fee (Rs. 6,000.00) for 2 delegates.

Lucknow Branch (Uttar Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees One thousand six hundred (Rs 1,600.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 07.05.2016 towards CHQ quota for eight (8) new life members.

Sangrur Branch (Punjab State) has deposited Rupees Six hundred (Rs 600.00) only in CHQ's Account with Syndicate Bank on 05.05.2016 towards CHQ quota for three (3) new life members.

Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees One thousand (Rs 1,000.00) only in CHQ's Account with Karur Vyshya Bank on 27.04.2016 towards CHQ quota for five (5) new life members.

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