



Editorial

MORE TROUBLES ON THE CARDS FOR THE PENSIONERS RECEIVING PENSION FROM DOT

Despite the claims being made by the authorities that the grievances of the pensioners are being addressed on priority through several grievance redressal mechanisms and other policy decisions, at least the pensioners who receive pension under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 from Department of Telecommunication will strongly disagree with the claims. Here in DOT even the set rules of the Government in many cases are misinterpreted, twisted and finally the intended benefits are being denied.

Under such a grim scenario, the DOT is on a move to inflict more wounds to the already injured souls of the pensioners. DoT is steadily moving ahead with its proposal to take over the jobs of the Banks which are now disbursing pension, issuing TDS certificates in Form 16, accepting annual life certificates and also the claims of the spouses for family pension on the demise of the pensioners. Now DoT wants to directly make payment of pension/family pension in the pension accounts with the Banks through its Pr CCA and CCA Offices. These payments could possibly be made by NEFT mechanism as the BSNL now does for medical reimbursement and other payments. Thus,

the Banks will have no liability to issue Form 16, receive Life Certificates, initiate claims for family pension.

The immediate casualty of this ill-conceived move will only be the peace of mind of the pensioners. The pensioners/family pensioners are scattered all over India whereas the Pr CCA/CCA Offices are centralized only in state capitals and in a few exceptional cases in large cities. Unlike the bank branches, these Offices will be inaccessible to the pensioners/family pensioners residing in far off places. Moreover, the aged pensioners/family pensioners cannot be expected to travel long distances to visit the Pr. CCA/CCA Offices to get the disputes/issues settled. Moreover, the offices of Pr CCA/CCA are under-staffed, ill-equipped and short of qualified/capable hands. Even at present, these offices are not able to handle the pension revision cases effectively and issue the PPOs in time.

This move will create huge problems to the Pensioners/Family pensioners to submit their Annual Life Certificate which they now submit to their Banks in the month of November each year. The Principal CCA/CCA Offices will not be able

to do this job even with digital Life Certificate facility since the pensioners/family pensioners cannot travel all the way from villages/towns to the offices of Principal CCA/CCA or use digital life certificate facility. This is a serious issue since pension/family pension will not be paid unless this process is successfully completed. Similarly, timely issue of TDS Certificates in Form 16A and ensuring their receipt by the concerned Pensioners on time is a must to enable them to submit their Income Tax Return within the stipulated date.

Though this Association has time and

again taken up the issues involved since the last seven months, DoT is maintaining a stoic silence. Concerns raised by us have not even been refuted so far. It seems that DoT has no concern for the pensioners/family pensioners. There could be some other hidden agenda behind the move i.e. to gradually create higher posts by expanding the Pr CCA/CCA Offices in the name of disbursement of pension – all at the cost of the pensioners/family pensioners.

Will the authorities now at least respond as to how they plan to address the above stated genuine concerns of the pensioners/family pensioners?

INCREASE IN IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2018

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, IDA is to increase w.e.f. 1.7.2018 by 0.8% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and by 1.3% where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) SUGGESTING A FEW STEPS FOR ENSURING SPEEDY AND EFFECTIVE DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE GRIEVANCES OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES: While welcoming the decision of the BSNL Management to open Grievance Redressal Cell for the retired employees, AIBSNLREA in a letter addressed to Director (HR), BSNL has suggested certain steps to be taken to ensure speedy and effective disposal of personal and collective grievances of the retired BSNL employees. This includes (i) opening of similar Cells in Circle Offices/large Telecom Districts, (ii) time limit for resolution of grievances, (iii) issue of acknowledgement of grievances received and (iv) furnishing periodical status report. [View posting dated 10.06.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

AIBSNLREA REQUESTS DIRECTOR (HR) TO CAUSE CHANGES IN THE EXISTING PROCEDURE TO APPROACH THE DESIGNATED OFFICER IN BSNL TO INTIMATE/SEEK AUTHORIZATION LETTER FOR INDOOR TREATMENT IN HOSPITALS – SPECIALLY IN EMERGENCIES IN RESPECT OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES: AIBSNLREA has since pleaded with Director(HR), BSNL to cause changes in the existing procedure to approach the designated officer in BSNL to intimate/seek authorization letter for indoor treatment in hospitals – specially in emergencies in respect of the

retired BSNL Employees. The Association writes “Now a days, many retired employees are living alone or with spouse only since their children are mostly settled abroad or serving in other cities in the country. These retired employees are required to approach the “designated Officer” in BSNL along with advice from an allopathic doctor and copy of MRS Card for admission in the hospitals. When the retired employee himself is sick, he will not be in a position to visit his old Office and approach the “designated officer” with the requisite papers. Otherwise also, the old retirees, because of their ill-health and age related problems, find it extremely difficult to travel a distance to contact the ‘designated officer’ and get the authorization letter for treatment in Hospitals. His/her spouse will also not be able to approach the “designated officer’ due to various reasons. These problems become more acute when the retired employees themselves are forced to get admitted in Hospitals in emergencies.” The Association has suggested that “SMS/Email information followed by a phone call should be made sufficient for getting the authorization letter issued.....”. [View posting dated 04.06.2018 in this website to read the letter](#)

ACTION ON AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA REGARDING GROSS VIOLATION OF RULE 70 OF CCS (PENSION) RULES, 1972 BY THE PRINCIPAL CCA, TAMILNADU CIRCLE FORWARDED TO DOT BY DOP&PW: AIBSNLREA had again represented on 16.05.2018 [view posting dated 17.05.2018 in this website] to Secretary (Pension) drawing his attention to an earlier representation of the Association, vide No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2018/04 dated 10.01.2018 wherein it was requested to protect the rights of some absorbed BSNL pensioners as provided under Rule 70 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, whose pension authorized some ten years back was revised to their disadvantage by the Pr. CCA, Tamilnadu Circle of Department of Telecommunications. The said has since been forwarded by DOP&PW to Department of Telecommunication. DOP&PW has stated in its letter dated 29.05.2018 that “It is once again requested that necessary action may be taken as per extent rules/instructions under intimation to the representationist.” [View posting dated 07.06.2018 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) REGARDING DENIAL OF BENEFIT OF ROUNDING OFF FRACTION OF A RUPEE TO THE NEXT HIGHER RUPEE TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF PENSION OF THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS BY THE PR. CCA, TAMILNADU CIRCLE TO DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS: AIBSNLREA had earlier sent a representation to Secretary (Pension) regarding denial of benefit of rounding off fraction of a rupee to the next higher rupee to determine the amount of pension of the absorbed BSNL pensioners by the Pr. CCA, Tamilnadu Circle of DOT - thereby violating the provision available in Rule 49/4 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. The Association had requested that Department of Telecommunications be advised to strictly follow the rules regarding rounding off fraction of a rupee to next higher rupee for revision of pension and also to rectify the old revised Pension Payment Orders issued by Pr. CCA, Tamilnadu Circle of DOT in which fraction of a rupee was not rounded off to the next higher rupee [View posting dated 16.05.2018 in this website to read the representation]. Now DOP&PW has forwarded the said representation to Director (Estt), DOT to consider the issue raised therein in

accordance with extant rules/instructions. [View posting dated 05.06.2018 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter](#)

BSNL/GOVT ORDERS

BSNL PROVIDES LINK FOR FILING ONLINE FORM FOR LODGING GRIEVANCES OF THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES: BSNL earlier introduced Grievance Redressal Cell for the retired employees. Now it has provided a link for filing online form for lodging Grievances by the retired employees at the front page of Intranet Service of Corporate Office. [View posting dated 12.06.2018 in this website to read the BSNL letter](#)

BRANCHES IN ACTION

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, RAIPUR BRANCH HELD: A General Body meeting of Raipur (Chhattisgarh) Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 14th June 2018 at Exchange building Fafadih. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri P. Z Choradia, President of the branch and 20 members attended the meeting. Branch secretary Shri G P Pande briefed the members on the various issues concerning the members such as issuance of fresh orders on BSNLMRS for pensioners about the ceiling limit, status of 3rd PRC implementation with 15% fitment benefit for BSNL Executives and consequent pension revision, court case on arrears of pay, pension and other retirement benefits on 78.2% IDA fixation. President thanked all the members for attending the meeting and taking part in the discussions.

QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, KOLHAPUR BRANCH HELD: Quarterly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Kolhapur Branch was held on 24th June, 2018 with Shri L.M. Godi, President, in the Chair. Meeting started with the Prayer. President welcomed the old and new members and gave brief of the developments during the past quarter including that of the 1st State Conference at Kolhapur. During the meeting, 10 new members joined the Association and 65 members attended the meeting. All the new members introduced themselves and were welcomed by the President and Secretary Shri D.K. Joshi with presentation of bouquet. Shri S.K. Kulkarni, a Senior Member who completed 75 Years was felicitated by the Branch with presentation of Shawl, Shriphal, and bouquet by Shri P.Y. Patil Sr. Member of the Branch. Shri Kulkarni expressed his thanks for the love and felicitation and wished the Association. Then President read out the message received from another Sr. Member Shri Kanade, congratulating the Asst. Secretary Shri P.S. Kulkarni, who successfully conducted the 1st State conference in a very Grand manner. Other members also highly appreciated his stewardship and zeal for the cause of such memorable conference in Kolhapur.

Then Secretary Shri D.K.Joshi, gave the detailed account of the issues of Revision of pension of BSNL Pensioners in line with CG Pensioners, 3rd PRC Status, Status of our HC case of Payment of Arrears of Pay, Pension etc consequent upon merger of 78.2% IDA and other developments, payment of Medical Allowance, CGHS Facility for BSNL Employees and recent developments in respect of payment for taking treatment in any Registered Hospital consequent upon recent SC

judgment. Members opined that the every time problem of “affordability clause by DPE and delay in revision of Pay scales of working BSNL employees and consequent delay in revision of Pension of BSNL Pensioner should be strongly dealt with. After this, the Secretary submitted his Review Report as part of the G.B. Meeting high lighting the activities, achievements and failures of last 4 years which was then passed. The Financial Report was also submitted, which was also passed.

Then President, on behalf the Executive Body thanked the house for their cooperatioOn in running Association for the last 4 years. Branch Secretary also spoke on similar lines. Then Shri. P.Y. Patil and Shri A.K. Kulkarni were nominated as Election officer and Asst. Election Officer respectively. House was dissolved. Elections were conducted by the Election officers and a new body was elected unanimously. On behalf of the newly elected Body, the Secretary thanked the members for reposing their confidence and assured that new body will continue to work for the welfare of the members with more zeal and selflessly work to protect their interest.

Then Shri N.C. Jain, State Org. Secretary, presented vote of thanks and the President declared conclusion of the meeting. Meeting ended after Lunch at 2 PM

New Executive Body:

President: Shri L M Godi, Vice President: Shri.G V Nanjangud, Secretary: Shri D K Joshi Asst. Secretary: Shri.P S Kulkarni, Finance Secretary: Shri C S Walke, Asst. Finance Secretary: Shri R G Desai, Executive Members: S/Shri. B G Anagolkar, Omprakash Chillal, S G Mendigeri, R G Kale, B B Buchade and Smt Rashmi Powar.

EAST VIDARBHA BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA MEETS PGMT, NAGPUR: Representatives of AIBSNLREA, East Vidarbha (Nagpur) Branch comprising of S/Shri U B Nikose President, V W Patil Vice President, Bhola Kamble, Asst State Secretary, Maharashtra, N R Rachkondawar, Asst Branch Secretary, B P Mazumdar Financial Secretary and V P Jadhav met Shri A K Bachpai, PGMT Nagpur on 30-05-2018. Shri U B Nikose presented a bouquet to the PGMT and following issues were mainly discussed: (1). Inordinate delay in payment of medical allowance to the BSNL pensioners who opted for BSNLMRS without vouchers facility for FY 2017-2018. Even after the end of financial year most of the pensioners have not received payment for even for the first two quarters. (2). Delay in payment of medical reimbursement bills for the outdoor treatment with vouchers for the FY 2017-2018. (3). Non-revision of pension with 78.2% benefit fitment wef 1st January, 2007 - Case of Smt S M Pannu Retd AGM Nagpur. DGM Finance along with AGM (Admn) were present in the meeting. PGMT suitably instructed DGM Fin and AGM Admn to take remedial steps to resolve the issues. Representatives of the Association also requested to open Grievance Cell at Nagpur to take care of the BSNL retired employees in the light of BSNL CO order dated 22.5.2018. PGMT assured to open the Grievances Cell at Nagpur with immediate effect. The representatives of the Branch Association thanked the PGM and other officers present in the meeting for the assurances to resolve the issues raised.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF PALAKKAD BRANCH HELD: GB meeting of Palakkad Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 12.06.2018 at Top inTown Palakkad. The meeting started at 11.00 hours. Despite heavy showers, 54 members attended the meeting. 4 new life members were enrolled

in the meeting taking the total life membership strength of the Branch to 77. Discussions were held regarding delay in getting Medical allowance due to paucity of funds in BSNL, implementation of 3rd PRC and the status on recent Court case and other issues. Members were aggrieved on the delay in implementation of 3rd PRC. President Shri Haridas, Retd DGM highlighted the cases taken up by Branch Secretary and GS for achieving the 78.2% IDA merger case in respect of few left out cases of Palakkad SSA. The members appreciated CHQ and Branch Secretary for this. The meeting came to a close at 13.30 hrs after Vote of Thanks presented by Asst Secretary Shri P.V.Subramanian. Members dispersed after the lunch arranged in the Top in town Hall.

GENERAL BODY MEETING OF ALAPPUZHA-ERNAKULAM-BRANCH HELD: A General Body Meeting of Alappuzha-Ernakulam Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on Tuesday, the 5th June 2018 at Murali Hotel, Haripad. Shri M Sethumadhavan, President of the Branch presided over the meeting. Shri Mathew Jacob, Branch Secretary explained the developments about pension revision, status of court cases, status of medical reimbursement without voucher, 78.2% fixation status etc. It was also informed that a Pension Adalat is being held at Thiruvalla. Grievances, if any, may be posted to CCA Kerala with copy to the Secretary. Detailed discussions were held on all issues. Three new members also joined the Association.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JUNE 2018

Kolhapur Branch (Maharashtra State) has deposited Rupees two thousand (Rs. 2000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 26.06.2018 as CHQ quota for 10 new Life Members.

Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees two thousand (Rs. 2000/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 16.06.2018 as contribution from 4 members for seeking legal remedy on pay/pension arrears issue.

Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees eight hundred (Rs. 800/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 16.06.2018 as CHQ quota for 4 new Life Members.

Shri Harsh Wardhan Sharma, Retd DGM (F), NTR & Life Member, AIBSNLREA has deposited Rupees fifty (Rs 50/-) in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 12/6/2018 as admission Fee.

Alapuzha-Ernakulam Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees two thousand six hundred (Rs. 2600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 08.06.2018 as quota (Rs. 600/-) for 3 new Life Members and contribution (Rs. 2000/-) for seeking legal remedy on pay/pension arrears issue.

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