



## Editorial

### REVIVAL PACKAGE FOR BSNL AND MTNL ON THE ANVIL

While the liquidity crisis afflicting BSNL continues unabated, with salary delayed for the second time now, in July 2019, mounting dues towards electricity payment, vendor payment, medical bill payment and contractor wages and complete ban on Capital Expenditure, the Government appears to be processing the revival package for both the PSUs, BSNL and MTNL, though in its own slow pace.

Based on the interim report of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, BSNL had submitted the proposals for its revival as early as in February 2019, which was said to include VRS and monetization of its land assets. The PMO called a meeting in April 2019 with DoT and BSNL officials and it was reported that decision had been taken to offer VRS to BSNL and MTNL employees with funding to be done through bonds raised by BSNL and MTNL and the Government providing guarantee; allocation of 4G spectrum, and monetization of land assets. But due to General Elections, the decisions were not taken forward further.

After the elections, Shri Ravishankar Prasad took over as Minister of Communications one more time and declared that presence of BSNL and MTNL in the Telecom Sector is important. He also talked about the Government considering a revival package for both BSNL and MTNL. There was a high-level Secretaries' Meeting headed by Cabinet Secretary and then a Group of Ministers meeting Chaired by the Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, which formalized the proposals and the DoT was

asked to prepare a Note for approval by the Cabinet. It is learnt that the Cabinet Note has been approved by the MOC and has been circulated among the concerned Ministries before submission to the Cabinet. According to reports, the proposals in the Cabinet Note include capital infusion of Rs.14155 Crores by the Government to BSNL for acquiring 4G spectrum; formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for land monetization initiatives, to which BSNL's loan of Rs.23000 Crores and equivalent value of land parcels will be transferred; merger of BSNL and MTNL; VRS for those who are above the age 50 and reduction in retirement age to 58 after completion of the process of VRS. BSNL will have to float Public bonds for raising the funds for VRS, with the bonds guaranteed by the Government. It is speculated that the Cabinet will take up the issue for approval by the end of August, 2019.

It is also being said that proposal for merger of BSNL and MTNL is again under active consideration by the Government. MTNL is being proposed to be a subsidiary of BSNL. However, there is no confirmation to this.

But, it is regrettable that neither BSNL Management nor the BSNL Unions/Associations are raising the issue of pension contribution under FR-116 that BSNL has to pay to the Government on the maximum of the pay scales of the serving absorbed employees, even though pension contribution for the Government employees on foreign service under the same FR-116 is being calculated on the existing pay since

1.1.2006. BSNL is, thus, being compelled to pay huge part of its revenue as pension contribution every year to DOT, causing BSNL's finance to bleed. AIBSNLREA has been representing to the authorities citing the ID Note of DOE that justification for allowing pension contribution on the existing pay of the employees is equally applicable to BSNL like the other Departments since no one in BSNL remains in the same grade for longer years due

to introduction of financial upgradation schemes. If this issue is resolved and the present discrimination being meted out to BSNL in regard to calculation of pension contribution is removed, BSNL will certainly receive a huge relief.

Anyhow, we now need to wait for the finality of the present move of the Government for revival of BSNL. ■

## ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF AIBSNLREA

All India Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Retired Executives' Association is holding its Second All India Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at Madurai in Tamilnadu. Notice for the Conference has already been issued and mailed to all Branch/State Secretaries and CHQ Office Bearers/CWC Members. A detailed Circular on the issue has also been mailed. Accommodation for the delegates arriving on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 will also be available from early morning.

## SEEKING LEGAL REMEDY ON PAY AND PENSION ARREARS

The Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal has dismissed the Original Application filed by AIBSNLREA on pay and pension arrear issue in connection with the DOT's Presidential Order to allow fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA w.e.f 10.06.2013. AIBSNLREA filed the Application, on representative capacity, praying for orders to get the (i) arrears of pension between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 for the pre-2007 pensioners, (ii) arrears of pay, pension and other pensionary benefits like enhanced DCRG, Leave encashment, Commuted value of pension (wherever admissible) for the pensioners who retired between 1.1.2007 and 9.6.2013 and (iii) pay arrears to those who retired/retiring before/after 10.06.2013, in the Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal.

Our OA was tagged with another OA already filed by another Association in which the DOT's Presidential Order dated 10.06.2013 allowing fitment benefit by merger of 78.2% IDA w.e.f. 10.06.2013 and denying pay arrears was not challenged. This OA filed by another association did not ask for pay arrears also. This OA was heard first and our OA was heard next on 30.07.2019. CAT then dismissed both the OAs. AIBSNLREA will file an Appeal in Delhi High Court against the dismissal, after studying the Order.

## INCOME TAX FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2020-21

There was no tax relief in the Union Budget that was placed in the Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. No-tax for income up to Rs 5 lakhs, as announced in the Interim budget, continues to hold good for all including the pensioners. With standard deduction of Rs. 50,000/-, deductions up to Rs. 1.5 lakh under section 80C and further deduction of Rs. 50,000/- against interest income on fixed deposits/Savings Bank deposits under section 80TTB, a pensioner with income up to Rs. 7.50 lakh will not be required to pay tax. If other entitled deductions are added, the no-tax limit may go up a little higher. There is no change in tax slabs also. The budget announcement has naturally disappointed the tax payers – specially the pensioners. However, we shall have to wait for the Orders to be issued by the Government on these issues after the Budget is passed.

### ISSUES TAKEN UP

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO MOS (PP) REGARDING NON-RESPONSE FROM DOP&PW ON THE QUESTION OF APPLICATION OF ITS OM DATED 12.11.1999 CLARIFYING TO RAILWAYS TO ALLOW COMMUTATION OF PENSION TO A PENSIONER EXONERATED AS A RESULT OF DEPARTMENT PROCEEDINGS FROM THE DATE OF HIS RETIREMENT TO SHRI BANABARA SWAIN, RETD DGM & Ex-PRINCIPAL, RTTC, BHUBANESWAR:** Having received no response to its earlier representation, vide No AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2019/24 dated 24.06.2019, addressed to Secretary (Pension) on the above issue, AIBSNLREA has now taken up the matter with Minister of State for (PP) requesting his intervention for early redressal of this genuine grievance of the above named pensioner who has been running from pillar to post to get his dues. The Association refers to the DOP&PW OM 34/1/99-P&PW(G) dated 12.11.1999 which was issued to Railways to clarify that “in cases where the pensioner is exonerated as a result of departmental proceedings, commutation of pension is deemed to have fallen due on the date of retirement, as if no proceeding was initiated against him, provided he had applied for the same”. The Association has submitted that “this clarification issued by DOP&PW exactly fits in the case of Shri Banabara Swain, the pensioner in question. Unfortunately, DOT is not taking cognizance of the contents of this OM and therefore the DOP&PW needs to step in”. [\[View posting dated 26.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

**AIBSNLREA HAS AGAIN TAKEN UP THE ISSUE OF PROVISION OF MOBILE CONNECTIONS IN LIEU OF LANDLINE TO THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES OF BSNL RESIDING IN TNF AREARS AND WHOSE CONNECTIONS WERE WITHDRAWN FOLLOWING CLOSURE OF WLL EXCHANGES:** In a letter addressed to CMD, BSNL, AIBSNLREA has submitted that ‘we had been requesting the BSNL Management for the last few years to allow provision of mobile connections in lieu of the concessional land line connections, as admissible as per the policy laid by the Corporate Office, to the retired BSNL employees residing in “Technically Not Feasible” areas. Some of these retired employees, residing in such areas were earlier provided connections from WLL Exchanges. But now they are not having the facility due to the policy decision of Corporate Office to close all the WLL Exchanges in the country’. The Association has expressed its total disappointment that so far BSNL has not given any response to the request. The Association has again cited the case of MP Telecom Circle which issued an Order allowing provision of mobile connections for the retired employees residing in its TNF areas and stated that “It is

really surprising that when a Telecom Circle can take such a policy decision, even though Corporate Office alone frame policies on the subject, why the Corporate Office could not take an uniform policy decision on the same issue to be applicable all over India". The Association has finally sought for the intervention of the CMD in the matter so that an early Order is issued allowing provision of mobile connections to the retired BSNL employees who are residing in TNF areas and also to those whose WLL connections provided earlier have been disconnected. [\[View posting dated 25.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

**AIBSNLREA ADDRESSES DDG(ESTT), DOT REQUESTING TO INTIMATE ACTION TAKEN ON OUR REPRESENTATION ON THE ISSUE OF NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY BSNL PENSIONERS UNDER BSNLMRS THAT WAS FORWARDED BY DOP&PW:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to DDG(Estt), DOT to know the action taken on our representation in which the Association had sought the intervention of Secretary (Telecom) in the matter of non-imbursement of medical claims submitted by the BSNL pensioners for both outdoor and indoor treatment for over several months. The said representation was forwarded to DDG(Esst) by DOP&PW [View posting dated 05.06.2019 in this website to read DOP&PW letter] [\[View posting dated 24.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA REGARDING NON-RESLOVING THE GRIEANCES OF THE PENSIONERS BY DOT TO MAKE THE PENSIONERS' GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL MECHANISM INEFFECTIVE– CITES THE CASE OF THE GRIEVANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION REGARDING PENSION CONTRIBUTION OF THE ABSORBED BSNL EMPLOYEES THAT WAS SENT BY PMO TO SECRETARY (TELECOM):** Being aggrieved by the action of the Department of Telecommunications in non-resolving the grievance of the Association on pension contribution of the absorbed BSNL employees which was addressed to the Prime Minister and sent by PMO to Secretary (Telecom) and then closure of the case by terming it as a policy issue, AIBSNLREA has now addressed a letter to the Prime Minister and sought for his intervention. The Association has stated in this letter that "Department of Telecommunications has made it a practice not to resolve the genuine grievances of the pensioners and put them in cold storage. We can cite numerous cases on this. However, we take this opportunity to cite a recent case wherein we had sought for your kind intervention to render justice to the absorbed BSNL pensioners, by allowing application of the same principle as allowed by Department of Expenditure vide its *ID Note No. MoF (DoE) ID No.228 (SO)E-III(A)/08 dated 19.12.2008* to calculate the pension contribution for the Government employees on foreign service basing on their "existing basic pay" instead of "maximum of the scales" w.e.f. 1.1.2006, also in respect of the absorbed BSNL employees. In fact, on receipt of the approval from DOE, the *Department of Personnel & Training* had issued the necessary Orders on this issue vide its *OM No 2/34/2008-Estt. (Pay II) dated 19.11.2009*. Our representation on this subject vide our No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2019/22 dated 01.06.2019 was duly forwarded to Secretary (Telecom) for action appropriate by your Office vide PMO ID No. PMOPG/D/2019/0183439 dated 10.06.2019". The Association has further stated that "instead of examining the issue and taking up the matter further with Department of Expenditure, Department of Telecommunication has chosen to close the case by terming this as a policy matter". The Association has finally pleaded that Department of Telecommunication should allow calculation of pension contribution of the absorbed BSNL

employees basing on their “existing basic pay” instead of “maximum of the pay scales” under the same principle for calculation of pension contribution as decided by Department of Expenditure for the Government employees on foreign service w.e.f. 1.1.2006 and also refrain from closing the representations of the pensioners or their Associations without redressing the grievances. [\[View posting dated 23.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

**GRANT OF CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS TO THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS/SDEs TELECOM WHOSE SENIORITY HAS BEEN REVISED AS PER PARA 206 OF P&T MANUAL VOLUME-IV ON THE DIRECTION OF SUPREME COURT- AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (TELECOM):** Now that BSNL has circulated a letter to all the Circles indicating therein that BSNL is now going to process the case for extending the consequential benefits only to those TES Group B Officers who were ordered to be promoted by BSNL to AGM(T) grade after its formation, AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Telecom) so that DOT immediately settles the case for extending consequential benefits to those senior TES Group B Officers whose promotion orders to DE grade on adhoc basis were issued by Department of Telecommunications much earlier to formation of BSNL. The Association has pointed out that if the consequential benefits to these TES Group B Officers, who were promoted by DOT before formation of BSNL and whose names find place in the revised Seniority List above the names of those promoted subsequently by BSNL, is not settled before hand, series of anomalies and discrimination will crop up inviting even more litigations. [\[View posting dated 22.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DDG(ESTT), DOT REQUESTING EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE CASE OF SHRI SHANKAR SINGH YADAV, RETD JTO OF MAHARASHTRA TELECOM CIRCLE REGARDING GRANT OF NOTIONAL PROMOTION AFTER HIS RETIREMENT ON HIS ACQUITAL FROM THE CHARGES IN TERMS OF DOP&T OM NO. 22011/3/2013-Estt. (D) DATED 25.01.2016:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to DDG(Estt), Department of Telecommunications on the above issue, quoting the office letter No. DOP&PW No. 4/04/2019-P&PW(D)/41014 dated 09.04.2019 of DOP&PW wherein the original representation of the Association addressed to Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW was enclosed for taking necessary action as per extant rules on our representation [View postings dated 25.03.2019 and 31.04.2019 in this website to read the representation of the Association and the response from DOP&PW respectively]. The Association has now requested “for early settlement of the case and also to intimate the progress made to render justice to Shri Shankar Singh Yadav, Retd JTO by allowing him the benefit of “notional promotion” and other consequential pensionary benefits as stipulated in DOP&T OM No. 22011/3/2013-Estt. (D) dated 25.01.2016”. [\[View posting dated 20.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

**AIBSNLREA AGAIN TAKES UP THE CASE OF SHRI V VELAPPAN, RETD DGM, TAMILNADU CIRCLE REGARDING NON-REFUND OF HIS GPF CONTRIBUTIONS AND INETEREST ACCRUED THEREON FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER 1986 TO SEPTEMBER 1990:** AIBSNLREA had earlier taken up this issue with Secretary (Pension) with copy endorsed to Secretary (Telecom) [View posting dated 10.05.2019 in this website to read the letter]. This representation from the Association was duly acknowledged by the Office of the Secretary (Telecom), but the issue

is still not resolved. Therefore. Association has again taken up the issue with Secretary (Telecom) requesting her intervention so that Shri Velappan, Retd DGM “gets back his GPF contributions with accrued interest for the period November 1986 to September 1990 without any further delay”. [\[View posting dated 19.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

**CGHS FACILITIES TO THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES- AIBSNLREA RAISES THE ISSUE REGARDING THE PROBLEM FACED BY THE WILLING RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES TO SWITCH OVER TO CGHS:** AIBSNLREA has brought to the notice of the Secretary (Telecom) about the problem being faced by the Retired BSNL employees— particularly the Retired BSNL Executives to arrange for the one-time subscription to be paid to the CGHS authorities which runs even to over Rupees one lakh. In order to overcome the problem, the Association has suggested and stated that “once the retired BSNL employees, desirous of joining CGHS, surrender their BSNLMRS Card and produce the demand letter from the CGHS authorities for depositing the subscription as fixed, let BSNL immediately arrange payment of entire amount as advance to the concerned pensioners who would be required to submit the Receipt issued by the CGHS authorities within a fortnight to the Units which sanctioned them the advance. We firmly believe that this arrangement will motivate those retired BSNL employees to switch over to CGHS who are hesitant to do so since they are unable to arrange for such a huge amount to be paid as subscription”. [\[View posting dated 17.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SHRI RAM BILAS PASWAN, MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION URGING HIM TO HELP THE BSNL PENSIONERS TO GET JUSTICE BY TAKING UP THE ISSUE OF ALLOWING CALCULATION OF PENSION CONTRIBUTION BASING ON THE EXISTING BASIC PAY OF THE ABSORBED BSNL EMPLOYEES WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution requesting him to take up the issue of calculation of pension contribution in respect of absorbed BSNL employees basing on their existing pay instead of maximum of the pay scales with the appropriate authorities in the Government stating further the background that “even as former Communication Minister in the Government under Late Atal Bihari Bajpayee in the year 2000, you may still have great concern for the ex-employees of Department of Telecommunications who were scared to join newly floated Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited but finally took absorption on your declaration that their future will be safe in BSNL which will have all the protections from the Government and would even be granted Navaratna status”. The Association has pointed out that DOE had allowed calculation of pension contribution of the Government employees who are on foreign service basing on their ‘existing basic pay’ in place of ‘maximum of the pay scales’ w.e.f 1.1.2006 on the ground that in view of introduction of time bound upgradation no Government employees will reach the maximum of the scales. The Association has pleaded that since in BSNL because of introduction of time bound financial upgradation no executive/non-executive will ever reach the maximum of the scales, the pension contribution for the absorbed BSNL employees be calculated basing on the ‘existing basic pay”. The Association has further written that “In view of our past experience with your resolve to render justice to all in need, we earnestly request you to take up this

genuine issue with the appropriate authority in the Government for early resolution. We may mention here that allowing calculation of pension contribution in respect of absorbed BSNL employees basing on the “existing basic pay” in place of “maximum of the pay scales”, as in the case of Government servants w.e.f. 1.1.2006, will help BSNL to save huge money that Department of Telecommunication is claiming every year. This money can be gainfully utilized for financial revival of BSNL which in turn will make it affordable to allow pay scale revision of the BSNL employees which eventually will pave the way for revision of pension of the absorbed BSNL pensioners”. [\[View posting dated 15.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

**INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER SOUGHT IN THE MATTER OF DENIAL OF BENEFIT OF FIXATION OF PENSION BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTRA INCREMENT GRANTED ON POST BASED PROMOTION IN RESPECT OF THE BSNL EXECUTIVES WHO RETIRED BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND APRIL 2018:** Having failed to get any response from Department of Telecommunication on the repeated request to get justice to a section of the BSNL Executives who were promoted under BSNL Executive Promotion Policy and retired between July 2017 and April 2018, but denied the benefit of fixation of pension by taking into account the one extra increment granted on their post-based promotion, AIBSNLREA has now taken up the issue with Prime Minister of India. In this case, the other BSNL Executives who retired earlier to July 2017 and subsequent to April 2018 under the same BSNL Executive Promotion Policy were allowed the benefit. The Association last took up the matter with Secretary (Telecom) on 11.03.2019 [\[View posting dated 11.03.2019 in this website to read the said letter\]](#). [\[View posting dated 13.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\]](#).

### **ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION**

**DOP&PW FORWARDS COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA ENDORSED TO MOS(PP) WHERE IN INTERVENTION OF PRIME MINISTER WAS SOUGHT IN THE MATTER OF DENIAL OF BENEFIT OF FIXATION OF PENSION BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXTRA INCREMENT GRANTED ON POST-BASED PROMOTION TO THE BSNL EXECUTIVES RETIRED BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND APRIL 2018 TO DOT:** AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to Prime Minister of India seeking for his intervention in the matter of denial of benefit of fixation of pension by taking into account the extra increment granted on post-based promotion under BSNL Executive Promotion Policy to the BSNL Executives who retired between July 2017 and April 2018 [\[View posting dated 13.07.2019 in this website to read the letter\]](#). DOP&PW has now forwarded the copy of the said representation that was endorsed to MOS(PP), DOP&PW to the Department of Telecommunications examine the issues. [\[View posting dated 31.07.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter\]](#).

### **GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS**

**CBDT EXTENDS LAST DATE OF FILING INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR THE ASSESSMENT YEAR 2019-20 TO 31.08.2019:** Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued an order extending the last date of filing income-tax returns for the assessment year 2019-20 from 30.07.2019 to

31.08.2019 in cases of all tax-payers who are liable to file returns within the due date. [\[View posting dated 24.07.2019 in this website to read the CBDT Order\].](#)

**SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL LIFE CERTIFICATE BY THE SENIOR PENSIONERS OF 80 YEARS AND ABOVE IN AGE- GOVERNMENT RELAXES RULE:** Considering the difficulties of the Senior Pensioners 80 years and above in submission of their Annual Life Certificate, Government has now issued Orders permitting them to submit Life Certificate one month in advance. These Senior Pensioners have been allowed to give their Life Certificate w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> October every year instead of November which would be valid till 30<sup>th</sup> November of the subsequent year. [\[View posting dated 22.07.2019 in this website to read the DOP&PW Order\].](#)

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPREME COURT JUDGMENT ON SENIORITY OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS/SDE TELECOM AS PER RULE-206 OF P&T MANUAL VOLUME-IV AND GRANT OF CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS THEREOF:** Under pressure, BSNL Corporate Office has finally initiated action, though in a controversial manner, to grant consequential benefits to the TES Group B Officers/SDEs Telecom whose names are figuring in the revised Seniority Lists. It has also circulated the list of orders for promotion issued to AGM (T) grade, both on adhoc and regular basis, since formation of BSNL and has asked the Circles to provide copy of promotion orders issued, if any, left out in the list, in order to process the case for granting consequential benefits. [\[View posting dated 20.07.2019 in this website to read the BSNL letter\].](#)

**DOT ISSUES REVISED MAPPING OF PAY AND SCALES FROM IDA TO CDA FOR DETERMINING CGHS SUBSCRIPTION AND WARD ENTITLEMENT OF THE RETIRED BSNL/MTNL PENSIONERS WHO ARE IN RECEIPT OF PENSION FROM CENTRAL CIVIL ESTIMATES:** Following issue of orders by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare revising the rates of monthly CGHS subscription and entitlement of Wards in Private Hospitals empanelled under CGHS, the Department of Telecommunication has also issued Orders for corresponding revision w.e.f. 1.1.2017 in mapping of Pay & Scales from IDA to CDA in respect of the retired BSNL/MTNL employees receiving pension from Central Civil Estimate and CGHS facilities. This is to enable CGHS in deciding the rate of CGHS contribution and ward entitlement in respect of the retired BSNL/MTNL employees who receive pension from Central Civil Estimates and CGHS facilities. [\[View posting dated 07.07.2019 in this website to read the DOT Order\].](#)

**REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2019 IN CPSES WHERE LAST PAY REVISION WAS IMPLEMENTED W.E.F. 01.01.2007:** DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.7.2019 from 141.4% to 146.7% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007. [\[View posting dated 05.07.2019 in this website to read the DPE Orders\].](#)

**REVISION OF IDA W.E.F. 1.7.2019 IN CPSES WHERE LAST PAY REVISION WAS IMPLEMENTED WITH EFFECT FROM 01.01.1997:** DPE has issued orders revising IDA w.e.f 1.7.2019 from 307.5% to 316.6% for CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997. [\[View posting dated 05.07.2019 in this website to read the DPE Orders\].](#)



## BRANCHES IN ACTION

**AIBSNLREA, CHENNAI BRANCH HOLD GB MEETING:** General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Chennai Branch was held on 20-07-2019 at Hotel Saravana Bhavan, Ashok Nagar, Chennai at 10.30 am. The meeting, presided over by Branch President Shri V. Dakshinamoorthy and attended by 54 members, commenced with a prayer sung by Smt. S.Mythili. Then, the house observed one-minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls of our members Late S/Shri B. Shanmugam, S. Piraviperumal, Diagaradjane and S. P. Sankaralingam. President welcomed all the members who assembled in large numbers and spoke on few issues like the need for improvement in medical reimbursement and at the same time informed the house that when BSNL struggles to pay even the salary, these issues are bound to take the back seat. After self-introduction of members, Secretary Shri L. Sundararaman read out a detailed report about the activities of the association after the last AGB held in 07.07.2017. He informed that 52 new members joined the Branch during this period. During the meeting two more new members joined the Branch. Shri V. Chinnappiah, CHQ President, in his address, appreciated the efforts taken by the branch in increasing the membership. He also spoke about the efforts put forth by the Branch Secretary in solving the case of Mrs. J. Rajalakshmi, with CCA and the family pension case of Mrs. S. Rajakumari, (wife of Late V. Sivaswamy, Ex-President AIBSNLREA, Chennai with SBI. Though the retired forum does not have any recognition, he narrated as to how CHQ is taking up issues like medical facility etc with the DOT/BSNL. Shri S.Ratnasubramanian, AGS, CHQ, in his address explained about how pension revision is evolved over last two decades and pointed out that under the existing guidelines set on the basis of SC judgment in D S Nakara case, only when the pay of the employees of BSNL is revised, the Pension of BSNL pensioners will also get revised. He categorically ruled out the possibility of revision of pension based on 7<sup>th</sup> CPC to BSNL pensioners and informed that de-linking of pension from pay revision is not at all in the agenda of our association. The House was then adjourned for Lunch. After the Lunch break, session resumed and election of new Office Bearers of the Branch was taken up after some more discussions. The election was unanimous with S/Shri V Dakshinamoorthy, and L Sundararaman re-elected as the President and Secretary of the Branch. The meeting then concluded after presentation of vote of thanks by Shri C R Rajasekaran, Finance Secretary.

**JUNAGADH BRANCH OF AIBSNLRERA HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:** A General Body Meeting of Junagadh Branch (Gujarat State) of AIBSNLREA was held on 22.07.2019 at Garden Café Restaurant, Junagadh under the chairmanship of Branch President Shri S D Kanabar. 70 members including some family members were present. Four new members joined the Association. Two minutes' silence was observed in memory of late Shri T.K.Chitroda and other members/family members who expired within last one year. Four senior members who crossed seventy years were honoured by presentation of shawl and bouquet. Shri K.P.Dobaria, Finance Secretary briefed the members on all current issues and efforts being made by the branch to solve the problems. State President Shri P.B.Parmar briefed the house about current status of pension revision as per 3rd PRC with 15% fitment benefits and efforts being made by pensioners associations. He discussed about financial position of BSNL and payment of medical bills. He told that G.S. has suggested BSNL regarding parity in entitlement of re-imburement of medical bills between past and new pensioners. State Secretary Shri S.L.Sharma briefed the house regarding the initiatives of the State Branch in solving the problems of the members and assured for better service in future. Shri B.M.Bhavsar, Org. Secretary (W), CHQ appealed to the members for donation for legal fund for our court case on pay and pension arrear issue in Pr. Bench CAT New Delhi which requires huge financial support. He discussed about age old problems, need to enjoy second Innings for long and healthy life, benefits of exercise, yoga, walking and laughing etc. Vote of thanks was finally presented by Shri H.N.Herbha, Branch Secretary. It was followed by Dinner. \_

**KOLHAPUR BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HOLD QUATERLY GB MEETING:** Quarterly GB Meeting of Kolhapur Branch of AIBSNLEA was held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2019. The meeting started at 11 AM with Branch President Shri L M Godi on the chair who welcomed all the members including the new members who attended the meeting. 71 members participated in the meeting and 5 new members joined the Association. The House observed two minutes' silence to pay homage to the veteran Leader and AGS of AICGPA, Pune. Then the new members S/Shri C. M. Urolagin, V. T. Divate, A. V. Sabrad from Kolhapur and Shri M. D. Yadav from Sangli and Shri P. A. Patil from Karad were welcomed by the President and Secretary. Branch Secretary Shri D K Joshi then addressed the House and informed in detail the developments on revival of BSNL, revision of pay of the working employees and consequent revision of Pension, PCAT Case on pay/pension arears, revision of seniority as per Rule-206 on Supreme Court's order and its likely effects. He also discussed about the issue of delinking of revision of Pension from the Pay revision of working BSNL employees being pursued by some Associations. He gave the latest status of issues that were taken up by the Branch as well as by CHQ. Other queries from the members were also replied. Shri S.G. Kanade, Sr. Member, gave a brief presentation on "misuse of WhatsApp" by the users and their ill-effects. He also spoke on gender equality in the Society. He emphasized on the "STREE SHAKTI" in developed world – particularly in India with special references from history. Shri D.H. Hattalli, gave detailed information on CPMS and its implementation process for all Pensioners. He said that existing pensioner's details will also be uploaded in CPMS in due course of time. Shri P.S. Kulkarni, Asst Branch Secretary gave details of the proposed tour program to "Jog Falls and Goa" etc. President then informed the House that today's Lunch has been hosted by Shri R.K. Savant. All members thanked him for this gesture. Finally, Shri Hattalli proposed Vote of Thanks and the meeting concluded at 14.00 hours.

**QUARTERLY GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, VADODARA BRANCH HELD:** Quarterly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Vadodara Branch, Gujarat State was held on 1st July, 2019 at 11.00 hrs in the banquet hall of Hotel Utsav. President Shri I A Patel welcomed all the members in the meeting. Branch Secretary Shri R T Shah presented a brief report on the current issues and discussions were also held on those issues. All the senior members who have crossed 70 years of age were honoured with presentation of shawls. Asst. Branch Secretary Shri A J Biniwale presented votes of thanks to all the participants. Lunch was served after the meeting.

## STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JULY 2019

**Shri Ravindra Kumar Tripathi, Retd SDE, Kota, Rajasthan** has deposited Rupees five thousand (Rs. 5000/-) only in the Savings Bank Account of CHQ on 30.07.2019 as donation on settlement of his personal case for absorption in BSNL and settlement of pension issue.

An amount of Rupees seven thousand nine hundred (Rs. 7900/-) only stands credited in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 22.07.2019.

An amount of Rupees One thousand (Rs 1000/-) only stands credited in the Savings Bank Account of CHQ on 22.07.2019.

**Indore Branch (MP State)** has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs. 600/-) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 15.07.2019 as CHQ quota for 3 new life members.

**Palakkad Branch (Kerala State)** has deposited Rupees one thousand four hundred (Rs. 1400/) only in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 29.07.2019 as CHQ quota for 7 new life members.

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