



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

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No.AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2022/48

Date: 17th November 2022

To

Shri P K Purwar,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,
New Delhi – 110001

Sub: Pension contribution by BSNL in respect of its absorbed employees – Clarifications required by DoE yet to be supplied by BSNL

Ref: 1. DoT letter No.40-32/2011-Pen(T) dated 2nd January 2019 addressed to CMD BSNL

2. RTI reply by DoT dated 11.11.2022

Sir,

We are constrained to draw your kind attention to a vital issue on which DoT had sought clarifications as required by the DoE, from BSNL but is still awaiting reply from BSNL.

2. Pension contribution by BSNL to the Government in respect of its absorbed employees, at the maximum of the pay scales, continues to remain not only a burden on BSNL finances but also a dampener for moving to the higher 3rd PRC pay scales. Though BSNL had initiated efforts to get it paid on the basis of actual pay as per DoP&T O.M No. DoP&T vide No.2/34/2008-Estt. (Pay II) dated 19th November 2009, the matter still remains unresolved, although it reached a point of resolution atleast once, in the year 2013, when DoP&PW had concurred with a GOM decision to extend this methodology to MTNL/BSNL employees w.e.f. 1.1.2006. DoT had assured repeatedly in its yearly MoUs that it will be ensured that BSNL too pays pension contribution on the basis of actual pay. But unfortunately, nothing materialised.

3. DoT vide its letter cited under Ref.1 above, had listed five points on which DoE required clarification on the matter and had requested BSNL to get them examined and furnish clarifications to DoT for further deliberation in DoT and onward submission to DoE. While we believed that BSNL had submitted the clarifications and the matter is only pending with DoE, we are shocked to learn through a reply from DoT under RTI, that “reply from BSNL is still awaited.”

4. We firmly believe that BSNL would not have remained that much lethargic, not to supply the clarifications on a very vital issue which is unreasonably draining its finances, that too for

three years. We feel that there is some miscommunication, which needs to be sorted out immediately, for further processing of the issue.

5. DoE had raised a query that "Since the concerned employees are on IDA pattern of pay scales, which are different from CDA pattern pay scale including date of effect, how far it is justified to draw a parallel from the principle of pension contribution rate based on DoPT orders which are applicable to CDA pay scales." The query raised about applicability of the DoPT order for BSNL employees drawing pay in IDA scales was quite surprising. BSNL has been forced all these years to pay pension contribution on the maximum of the pay scales in accordance with a completely irrelevant FR 116, which pertains to Government Servants on Foreign Service or say on deputation to other departments/PSUs and which cannot be made applicable to those who are permanently absorbed in the PSU. If DoPT orders are not applicable, why then BSNL has been forced to pay pension contribution as per an earlier DoPT order stipulating pension contribution on the basis of maximum of the pay scales which too was intended for CDA pay scales. While submitting its clarifications, BSNL should emphatically place its views on this point, so that DoE abandons its misunderstanding if any on this count, once for all.

6. BSNL Pensioners are very much concerned about the matter of pension contribution, as financial health of BSNL is as important to the BSNL absorbed pensioners as its serving employees. We therefore request your personal and urgent attention to the issue, clearing any miscommunication between BSNL and DoT on the issue and immediate submission of the required clarifications, if not already submitted.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(R.R.Balasubramanian)
Asst. General Secretary
For General Secretary

Encl: As stated

- Copy to: 1. Shri V Srinivas,
Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW
2. Shri K Rajaraman,
Secretary, DoT
3. Shri T V Somanathan,
Secretary, DoE
4. Shri Arvind Vanderkar,
Director (HR), BSNL.
5. Smt Yojana Das,
Director (F), BSNL.