



Editorial

CLOUD OF UNCERTAINTY GETTING THINNER

With certain positive developments in the very recent past, one can now start feeling that the cloud of uncertainty that was hovering over the head of the BSNL employees in general and the VRS optees in particular is gradually on the way of waning. The employees had been for last many months not being paid monthly salaries. Their GPF and other contributions were not being deposited in the respective funds. The VRS-optees were also not paid their salary for the month of December 2019 and January 2020. They even did not receive their GPF, Leave encashment, ex-gratia payment, GSLIS (Group Savings Linked Insurance Scheme), medical claims and many other dues. They were also not handed over the Pension Payment Orders. For them, it was darkness everywhere, since there was no clear road map to clear all their legitimate dues.

However, now the situation has started to be better – though marginally. The VRS-optees have already received their salary for the month of December 2019 on 15.02.2020 and the salary for the month of January, 2020 is now expected to be paid before the coming Holi. Orders have also been issued to pay provisional pension, pending issue of Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) for next five months or till the PPOs are issued, whichever is earlier. It is a matter of great relief that the CCAs have already started issuing the PPOs. Some SSAs have also paid GPF and Leave encashment.

Action has already been initiated to settle GSLIS and BSNL has asked DOT to release the money that it committed for the purpose of executing the VRS scheme to enable it to pay the ex-gratia. We strongly believe that most of these issues will get fully resolved in the coming days.

On the other hand, not only the VRS-optees and other regular employees, even the BSNL IDA pensioners are anxiously waiting for the payment of both their long pending outdoor and indoor treatment under BSNLMRS. They all are hoping against the hope that BSNL might clear these payments before this March end. Only solace is that some pensioners who had opted for CGHS have started receiving payment for their claim against one-time subscription that they paid to the CGHS authorities.

With above 50% of the employees having taken VRS, BSNL's expenditure on salary-head now will come down by at least 50% if not more. BSNL's expenditure on account of pension contribution will considerably go down. Thus, BSNL is supposed to have sizeable amount to meet the immediate need of its serving and retired employees. BSNL has also shown some encouraging improvement in the matter of enrolling new subscribers. If this trend continues and the customers get the quality service, revenue collection will certainly improve. Process for monetization/retention of land has also started. It is expected that 4-

G spectrum is likely to be released in April next. Now it will be left to the management not to waste the momentum.

BSNL also will be required to renew the process of revision of pay scales for its employees whose morale has already

gone down and this needs to be boosted to encourage them to give their best. Simultaneously, as repeatedly assured in Parliament and other forums by the MOC/MOSC, the revision of pension of all BSNL pensioners also be allowed to go side by side. ❖

A FEW IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

- BSNL has paid the salary for the month of December 2019 to its serving employees and also to those who retired on 31.12.2019 and 31.01.2020 which includes nearly 80,000 VRS Optees on 15.02.2020. The salary for the month of January 2020 will reportedly be paid before 10th March, 2020 i.e. just before this Holi.
- DOT has issued Orders allowing payment of provisional pension to the VRS retirees for next five months or till issue of PPOs whichever is earlier. However, some CCAs have already started issuing PPOs.
- BSNL has circulated the details of online options received for annual renewal of Group Term Insurance Scheme w.e.f. 1.3.2020 for information and verification by the individual optees. The Executives who could not withdraw from the scheme during the online option due to personal reasons were also asked to submit written representation to their DDOs and get themselves withdrawn from the scheme by contacting the ERP Core Team. [This GTI pertains to only BSNL executives in service]
- BSNL has made payment of claims for reimbursement of one-time subscription paid to the CGHS authorities by the absorbed BSNL pensioners who have already switched over to CGHS regime.
- BSNL has initiated the process for monetisation/retention of land parcel in BSNL and has circulated the list of all properties and requested the Circles to check the property list and inform details of properties to be retained and any error or duplicity in the data.
- BSNL adds 4.2 lakh new subscribers in the month of December, 2019 and thus topped the list of new subscribers added by different Telecom Companies during the month of December, 2019. In the process, Jio has been pushed back to a distant second position which could add only 82,308 new subscribers.
- M/S Deloitte Haskins & Sells LLP has been appointed as the Adviser for enabling finalization of plan on modalities to implement the Union Cabinet's decision w.r.t. merger of MTNL and BSNL. In a Circular issued, vide No. BSNL/SECRR/64-1/2019 dated 24.02.2020, the Secretariat and Legal Division of BSNL Corporate Office has asked all the concerned units to furnish certain specific information for the purpose of proposed

consolidation of BSNL and MTNL merger to enable the Adviser to start conceptualization phase.

- **Minister of Communications Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad has stated in Rajya Sabha on 06.02.2020 that “Don’t be under impression that BSNL and MTNL will be shut down. We have infused a revival package in them and I assure you that these companies will not be shut down”.**

ISSUES TAKEN UP

AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE ISSUE OF GRANT OF ONE EXTRA INCREMENT TO THE BSNL EXECUTIVES ON THEIR POST-BASED PROMOTION WHO RETIRED BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND APRIL 2018: In the background that DOT has expressed its intention not to take action to resolve the above issue terming this as a suggestion for ‘change of policy’ and not a grievance, AIBSNLREA has again taken up the matter contesting the stand of DOT. The Association has maintained that “Nowhere in our representation, we suggested or requested for any ‘change of policy’. It does not require a ‘change in policy’ by the Department of Telecommunication, either”, since the ‘BSNL Executive Promotion Policy 2004’ does not have any provision to discriminate any section of the BSNL Executives in the matter of grant of one extra-increment. The Association has affirmed that the Association only wanted a genuine grievance of discrimination meted out to a particular section of the retired Executives to be removed. The Association has now pleaded with Prime Minister to ‘kindly advise Department of Telecommunications to extend the benefit of one extra-increment on post-based promotion, as provided in the ‘BSNL Executive Promotion Policy 2004’ also to the BSNL Executives who retired between July 2017 and 2018 in the same manner as all the Executives retired before July 2017 and those retired/retiring after April 2018 have rightly been granted’. [\[View posting dated 29.02.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA AGAIN TAKES UP THE CASE OF NON-ACCOUNTING AND NON-REFUND OF GPF CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHRI V VELAPPAN, RETD DGM, TAMILNADU CIRCLE WITH PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA: AIBSNLREA has again represented to Prime Minister of India on the above issue since DOT has not made payment of his GPF contributions which was deducted from his salary from December 1980 to September 1990, even after repeated representations. Submitting documents issued by MTNL Mumbai as a proof of transfer of GPF contributions to DMT, Coimbatore in respect of Shri Velappan for the period when he worked in MTNL Mumbai from November 1986 to September 1990, the Association has urged Prime Minister of India to advise Department of Telecommunications to refund the GPF contributions with accrued interest for the period of December 1980 to September 1990 to Shri V Velappan, Retd DGM without any further delay. [\[View posting dated 28.02.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

ABNORMAL DELAY IN PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON DELAYED PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT GRATUITY- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF SHRI KAILASH CHANDRA KHATUA, RETD DE, ODISHA: AIBSNLREA has since taken up the case of abnormal delay in payment of interest on delayed payment of retirement Gratuity of Shri Kailash Chandra Khatua, Retd DE, Dhenkanal, Odisha with Secretary (Pension) and others. In this case, CCA, Odisha Circle had sent a

detailed calculation sheet for payment of interest payable to Shri Khatua, Retd DE to Adviser (Finance), Telecom Commission for necessary sanction/orders as back as on 15.06.2018. But even though more than 20 months have already passed since the CCA, Odisha requested for sanction/orders from DOT, no action seems to have been taken by DOT on the issue. Shri Khatua, Retd DE became entitled to get the interest on delayed payment of his retirement gratuity following his complete exoneration in a case initiated against him under Rule-36 of BSNL CDA Rule 2006. [\[View posting dated 27.02.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA AGAIN TAKES UP THE ISSUE OF GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ALLOWING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THE RETIRED/RETIRING EMPLOYEES WHOSE DATE OF NEXT INCREMENT FALLS ON THE FOLLOWING DAY OF THEIR RETIREMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA: Being unsatisfied with the reply given by Department of Personnel & Training vide its No. 16/2/2020-Estt(Pay-I) dated 21.01.2020 in response to our earlier representation to the Prime Minister of India in which it was merely stated that the judgment of Hon'ble Madras High Court in W.P.No. 15732/2017 in the case of Shri P Ayyamperumal in *in personam*, i.e. specific to the case of petitioner only [View posting dated 28.01.2020 in this website to read the DOP&T letter], the Association has now again sent a representation to the Prime Minister of India. In this representation, the Association has submitted that "However, it (DoP&T) remained silent on all other cases in which judgments have gone in the similar line i.e. in favour of all the applicant pensioners. Even Delhi High Court in a judgment delivered on 13.01.2020 in W.P.(C) 5539/2019 in the case of Shri Arun Chhibber Vs Union of India has ordered to give the same benefit as given to the Petitioner in the above mentioned case as ordered by Madras High Court, even though the Government argued before the Court that the judgment of Madras High Court as 'in personam and not in rem". Accordingly, the Association has appealed to the Prime Minister of India so that DOP&T accepts the hard reality that all judgments by courts are being delivered in favour of the applicant-pensioners which cannot be reversed and thereby immediately issue an Order granting notional increment for the purpose of allowing pensionary benefits to the all retired/retiring employees whose date of next increment falls on the following day of their retirement. [\[View posting dated 17.02.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

FALSE CLAIM OF HAVING PAID REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT UNDER BSNLMRS TO THE ABSORBED BSNL PENSIONERS IN THE 26AS (TAX CREDIT STATEMENT) PAGE OF THE TDS-CPC SITE OF INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE: In a letter addressed to CMD, BSNL and copy endorsed to all concerned on the above issue, AIBSNLREA has stated that "We are surprised to note that despite pointing out on many earlier occasions, BSNL is continuing to claim having made payment of reimbursement for outdoor treatment of the absorbed BSNL pensioners under BSNLMRS and also showing deduction of TDS against those unpaid amounts in 26 AS (Tax Credit Statement) page of the TDS-CPC web site of Income Tax Department. None of the pensioners, in fact, has received any payment of reimbursement for outdoor treatment under BSNLMRS from BSNL Units in the current assessment year. As a result, all these pensioners who are to submit their Income Tax Returns in a few months from now have been put in a serious trouble. This is really an unethical practice to make false claim for having made payment and then deducting TDS against these unpaid amounts". The Association has further requested that "all the concerned absorbed BSNL pensioners be immediately supplied with the details of payment made, if any, in their respective Bank Accounts by BSNL through NEFT or any other mode"

and “the Income Tax Department be immediately informed of the factual position to avoid unnecessary harassment of the tax paying pensioners at the later stage”. The Association has finally expressed the hope that BSNL would make actual payment of reimbursement of claims for outdoor treatment against all the claims which have already been submitted and also being submitted in the current financial year without any further delay. [\[View posting dated 16.02.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

NON-PAYMENT OF SALARIES, LEAVE ENCASHMENT, GPF AMOUNTS, CLAIMS FOR MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENTS AND OTHER DUES TO OVER 80,000 BSNL EMPLOYEES WHO WERE FORCED TO TAKE VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT ON 31.01.2020- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY (PENSION): AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension) regarding non-payment of various dues including salaries, leave encashment, GPF amounts, claims for medical reimbursement and other dues to over 80,000 absorbed BSNL employees who were virtually forced to take voluntary retirement on 31.01.2010. The Association has maintained that “We have no hesitation to state that 31.01.2020 will be remembered as the black day for the pensioners’ community as a whole when over 80,000 absorbed BSNL employees were forcibly sent back to home even without clearing their legitimate dues on the date of their retirement. In the process, many Orders issued by DOP&PW from time to time instructing to settle the dues payable to the retirees on the day of their retirement have been brushed aside”. The Association has further submitted that “we earnestly request you to kindly render justice to these new retirees and their family members by ordering Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to immediately clear their all pending dues including salaries for last two months, claims for all pending medical claims, payment of accumulated GPF, Encashment of Leave Salary and other dues”. [\[View posting dated 15.01.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA ADDRESSES PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE ISSUE OF TOTAL NEGLECT OF THE INTERESTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2020-21: AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Prime Minister of India expressing total disappointment with budget proposal regarding personal taxation. The Association has drawn his attention to his Message dated 31.03.2015 to the Elders of the country in which it was conveyed that “At this juncture, you have simple needs. You look forward to a peaceful and healthy life. And a life of dignity and respect, where you do not have to depend on others”.....Thus, it is the nation’s responsibility to look after you.....My Government is thus committed to ensuring that your golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully”. The Association has conveyed that ‘the Budget proposal for the year 2020-21 regarding personal (direct) taxation presented in Parliament has totally failed to respond to your declaration’ and has appealed to reconsider the budget proposal in regard to personal taxation and allow continuation of certain benefits like exemption of income tax upto a higher stage of income, retention of standard deduction, benefits of 80 TTB etc. even in the new income tax regime. [\[View posting dated 11.01.2020 in this website to read the letter\].](#)

RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATIONS

AURANGABAD SSA OF BSNL MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA REGARDING ITS REPRESENTATION TO SECRETARY (PENSION) IN THE MATTER OF NON-PAYMENT OF

REGULAR PENSION, RELEASE OF GRATUITY AND COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSION TO SHRI A S JOSHI, RETD CAO, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE – STATES THAT VIGILANCE CLEARANCE AND FINAL RETIREMENT ORDER IS AWAITED: Aurangabad SSA of BSNL Maharashtra Circle has since responded to the representation of AIBSNLREA addressed to Secretary (Pension) wherein the case of non-payment of regular pension, release of gratuity and commuted value of pension to Shri A S Joshi, Retd CAO, Aurangabad SSA was taken up. [View postings dated 19.10.2019, 07.01.2020, 19.01.2020 and 19.02.2020 in this website to read the correspondences]. Now Aurangabad SSA of BSNL Maharashtra Telecom Circle has informed AIBSNLREA that grant of vigilance clearance and issuance of final retirement order are required to release pensionary benefits to Shri A S Joshi, Retd CAO and for which the matter has been taken up with CGMT, Maharashtra Circle. [\[View posting dated 23.02.2020 in this website to read Aurangabad SSA, BSNL letter\].](#)

DOT FORWARDS AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION TO SECRETARY (PENSION) REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF REGULAR PENSION, RELEASE OF GRATUITY AND COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSION OF SHRI A S JOSHI, RETD CAO, MAHARASHTRA CIRCLE TO JT. CCA, BA IT, NEW DELHI: AIBSNLREA had taken up the above issue with Secretary (Pension) and a copy of the representation was also endorsed to Secretary (Telecom). Earlier, DOP&PW had forwarded the representation addressed to Secretary (Pension) to DOT to take appropriate action which is now under process [View postings dated 19.10.2019, 07.01.2020 and 19.01.2020 in this website to read the letters]. Now DOT has sent the copy of the same representation, which was addressed to Secretary (Telecom), to Jt. CCA BA IT, New Delhi for appropriate remedial action. [\[View posting dated 19.02.2020 in this website to read the DOT letter\].](#)

AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA AGAINST CLOSURE OF ITS EARLIER REPRESENTATION BASED ON THE AIC RESOLUTION REQUESTING TO CONSTITUTE A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FROM INVESTIGATING AGENCIES AND OTHERS TO INVESTIGATE SOME SPECIFIC CASES CITED BY THE ASSOCIATION IN WHICH CERTAIN POWERS GAVE UNDUE ADVANTAGE TO THE PRIVATE OPERATORS AT THE COST OF BSNL NOW FORWARDED BY PMO TO SECRETARY, DOT: AIBSNLREA had sent a representation to the Prime Minister after its original representation, based on AIC resolution, requesting to constitute a High-Power Committee with members from investigating agencies and other experts to investigate into some specific cases as cited by the Association in which undue advantage was given to the private operators at the cost of BSNL was disposed of by BSNL merely stating that “Govt. has already approved the revival plan of BSNL which is under process at appropriate level” [View posting dated 18.01.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Prime Minister’s Office has sent this representation to Secretary, Department of Telecommunications for action as appropriate. [\[View posting dated 13.02.2020 in this website to read the PMO letter\].](#)

DOT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE REMEDIAL ACTION ON AIBSNLREA’S REPRESENTATION TO PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA DRAWING HIS ATTENTION ON THE ATTEMPT BY DOT TO CLOSE THE REGISTERED GRIEVANCE REGARDING PAYMENT OF CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS FOLLOWING REVISION OF THE SENIORITY OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS AS ORDERED BY SUPREME COURT WITHOUT RESOLVING THE SAME: AIBSNLREA had to draw the attention of Prime Minister of India on the attempt by DOT to close the Grievance registered based on the AIC Resolution of AIBSNLREA and forwarded by PMO to Secretary, DOT regarding

payment of consequential benefits to the former TES Group B Officers of DOT since absorbed in BSNL and MTNL following revision of their seniority on the order of Supreme Court in its final judgment delivered on 14.12.2017 in CA No(s) 4389 of 2010 without resolving the said grievance [View posting dated 04.01.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now Department of Telecommunications has forwarded the said representation to DDG(Estt) for appropriate remedial action. [[View posting dated 09.02.2020 in this website to read the DOT letter](#)].

DOT INFORMS THROUGH PG PORTAL SETTLEMENT OF CASE OF SHRI B SWAIN, RETD DGM, ODISHA REGARDING PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSION: The issue regarding non-payment of Commuted Value of Pension from the date of retirement on which Shri Banabara Swain, Retd DGM, Odisha was subsequently exonerated as a result of departmental proceedings initiated against him was taken up by AIBSNLREA from time to time. Earlier, DOT had earlier closed the case stating that clarification from DOP&PW on the issue is awaited. The Association lodged its protest with DOP&PW against the decision to close the case without resolving the same [View posting dated 04.12.2019 of this website to read the letter]. Now DOT has informed through pgportal that necessary clarification to CCA, Odisha Circle was issued and consequently CCA Office has issued sanction of additional commuted value of pension to Shri B Swain. [[View posting dated 08.02.2020 in this website to read the Status Report](#)].

PMO SENDS REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA DRAWING ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA ON THE ATTEMPT BY DOT TO CLOSE THE REGISTERED GRIEVANCE REGARDING PAYMENT OF CONSEQUENTIAL BENEFITS FOLLOWING REVISION OF THE SENIORITY OF THE TES GROUP B OFFICERS AS ORDERED BY SUPREME COURT TO SECRETARY, DOT: AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to Prime Minister of India drawing his attention on the attempt made by DOT to close the Grievance raised in the representation which was forwarded by PMO to Secretary, DOT on the issue of payment of consequential benefits to the former TES Group B Officers of DOT since absorbed in BSNL and MTNL following revision of their seniority on the order of Supreme Court in its final judgment delivered on 14.12.2017 in CA No(s) 4389 of 2010. The Association had also requested to advise Department of Telecommunications to resolve the said grievance at the earliest so that the affected pensioners get their long pending grievance mitigated at the earliest [View posting dated 04.01.2020 in this website to read the letter]. PMO has since forwarded the said representation to Secretary, Telecommunications for appropriate action. [[View posting dated 01.02.2020 in this website to read the PMO letter](#)].

GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

BSNL ISSUES ORDERS ENDORSING DOT'S ORDER ON PAYMENT OF PROVISIONAL PENSION TO ALL THE VRS RETIREES AND CIRCULATING A TOOL TO FETCH REQUIRED DATA THROUGH ERP: BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 45-16/2019-Pen(B) dated 21.02.2020, has endorsed DOT's Order to make payment of provisional pension (50% of Last Pay drawn plus applicable dearness relief) for next five months or till issue of PPO, whichever is earlier to all VRS retirees [View posting dated 15.02.2020 in this website to view the DOT Order]. In addition, BSNL's Order also circulates a tool

developed to fetch required data through ERP for the purpose of implementation of DOT's instructions. [View posting dated 22.02.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)].

RETENTION OF STAFF QUARTERS BY VRS RETIREES – NO EDUCATIONAL/ MEDICAL GROUND CERTIFICATE REQUIRED: BSNL Corporate Office, vide its No. 482-11/2019-BG/Vol.II dated 20.02.2020, has issued a clarification according to which BSNL VRS retirees will not be required to submit certificate for educational/medical ground for retention of quarters for the normal period of eight months. [\[View posting dated 20.02.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order\]](#).

PAYMENT OF PROVISIONAL PENSION FOR NEXT FIVE MONTHS OR TILL ISSUE OF PPO TO THE BSNL AND MTNL VRS RETIREES – DOT ISSUES ORDERS: Since CCAs of DOT could not issue Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) in respect of the VRS retirees of BSNL and MTNL, who retired on 31.01.2020, DOT has since issued an Order vide its No. 1/Misc/Pen/Issues/BSNL/DDG(Accounts)/2019-Part (1)/566 to 587 dated 14.02.2020, as a special dispensation to make payment of provisional pension (50% of Last Pay drawn + applicable dearness relief) for next five months or till issue of PPO, whichever is earlier. [\[View posting dated 15.02.2020 in this website to read the DOT Order\]](#).

DOOR-STEP SERVICE TO COLLECT ANNUAL LIFE CERTIFICATES FROM THE PENSIONERS WHO FAIL TO SUBMIT THE SAME BY DUE DATE: In a detailed Order issued 17.01.2020, DOP&PW has ordered that all Pension Disbursing Banks shall ask all pensioners through sms/e-mails on 24th October, 1st November, 15th November and 25th November every year to remind them to submit their Annual Life Certificate by 30th November. Banks are also to send sms/e-mails to those pensioners who failed to submit their Annual Life Certificate by 30th November and shall ask such pensioners if they are interested for Door-Step Service to collect Annual Life Certificate against payment of charges not exceeding Rs. 60/- only. [\[View posting dated 10.02.2020 in this website to read the DOP&PW Order\]](#).

BRANCHES IN ACTION

AURANGABAD BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS G.B. MEETING: AIBSNLREA, Aurangabad Branch held a GB Meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri R. S. Dudhe, President of the Branch at 17.00 Hrs of 20.02.2020 at Yashomangal Karyalaya, Aurangabad. The meeting was attended by almost all the regular members along with recently retired executives who opted for VRS. Total 65 comrades attended the meeting. Shri Y. K. Bansod, GMT Aurangabad addressed the gathering as Chief Guest. Shri Ganvir, DGM (Admin), Aurangabad also addressed. Branch Secretary Shri V. P. Joshi welcomed all and informed the House about the developments taken place after the last meeting. The Newsletter No. 01/2020 dated 18.02.2020 by GS Shri S. Basu along with appeal of President Shri V. Chinnappiah dated 07.12.2019 were read out in the House. The queries raised by the members were duly replied by Secretary and President. Among the new retirees who attended the meeting, ten retirees immediately enrolled themselves as the Life Members of the Association. Others assured to get enrolled soon. The meeting was also addressed by President Shri Dudhe who presented vote of thanks. Finance Secretary Shri Gadlinge took special efforts for success of the meeting. Newly enrolled members S/Shri Ganesh Khobre and G. N. Hiswankar took responsibility on themselves for arranging dinner after the meeting.

GB MEETING OF AIBSNLREA, KURUKSHETRA BRANCH HELD: A General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA, Kurukshetra Branch was held on 12.02.2020 at 11.30 AM at YATRI NIWAS, a Haryana Tourism Hotel, under the chairmanship of Shri D S Sandhu. Out of total membership strength of 38 members, 28 members of the Branch attended the meeting. Four new members were also enrolled as Life Members of the Branch. Branch Secretary Shri Jogi Ram briefed the members on the Court Case, Pension revision, non-payment of medical bills, joining of CGHS and other issues. The issues taken up at All India Conference at Madurai were also discussed. The meeting decided to get all the new retirees enrolled as Life Members and also to extend all possible help to resolve their immediate and other problems. The meeting concluded with presentation of vote of thanks to the members. Lunch was, thereafter, served to all the participants.

DELEGATION OF GHAZIABAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA MEETS CGM, ALTTTC, GHAZIABAD: A delegation of Ghaziabad Branch of AIBSNLREA, comprising of President Shri Naresh Chand, Vice President Shri Awadhesh Kumar Sharma, Branch Secretary Shri Rakesh Chandra and others, met CGM, ALTTTC, Ghaziabad on 22.02.2020 to discuss about non-payment of one-time subscription paid to the CGHS authorities by the members and others. CGM called the concerned CAO and AO and also the Officers from ERP Unit and wanted them to take appropriate action in the matter. The delegation was assured that payments will be made along with the salary payment for the month of February, 2020 of the employees. A Note of the discussion was also issued by the administration. [\[View posting dated 25.02.2020 in this website to read the Note of Discussions\].](#)

AMBALA BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HOLD A GB MEETING: A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Ambala Branch was held on 18th February, 2020. The meeting was presided by Shri P C Chauhan, Branch President. The meeting was attended by 54 members. 24 new members, who retired on 31.1.2020 under VR Scheme, joined the Association as life members. Branch Secretary Shri J C Gupta welcomed all the members for joining our Association. All the members also introduced themselves for better coordination. New members were briefed about our Association by Branch Secretary. Shri K.L.Gakhar enthralled the members with his ghazal. Members also recounted their experience while in service. The meeting ended with vote of thanks. This was followed by lunch which was enjoyed by everybody.

AIBSNLREA, VADODARA BRANCH HOLD GB MEETING: Fifth Quarterly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA, Vadodara Branch was held in Hotel Utsav at 11.00 hrs of 3rd February, 2020. The meeting had a special significance since it was held immediately after mass retirement took place on 31.01.2020. Branch invited all the 45 retired executives and almost all of them attended the meeting. President Shri I A Patel welcomed all the members and the special invitees. Later, some of these retirees also submitted their membership forms. House observed 2 minutes silence in memory of department member of the Branch Shri L M Zala. Branch Secretary Shri R T Shah, in his report, stated that five delegates from Vadodara Branch attended the AIC held at Madurai. The main issues discussed in the AIC Madurai were briefed to the House. Report of the General Secretary and the resolutions adopted in the AIC were also discussed. Functioning of the Association was explained for the benefit of new members. Meal was served to

GB MEETING OF ODISHA STATE BRANCH HELD: A GB meeting of Odisha State Branch was held on 12.02.2020 in Jayadev Batika premises, Bhubaneswar, in which 31 members were present. The number includes eight new members including the VRS retirees. Shri Sanatan Das, President in his address welcomed the new entrants and appraised them about AIBSNLREA since its formal launch in 2008 as the first Pensioners' Association of BSNL Executives, subsequent registration in 2014 and the present day set up. Odisha has the honour of being the first AIC venue in 2016. It was explained to the members, how and why the approach the Association is quite different from other associations in tackling the issues of common interest like Pension Revision as per 3rd PRC in contrast to the others views of linking it with 7th CPC. CHQ's sustained efforts recently brought result in issue of order for provision of Mobile connection to BSNL retirees residing in TNF areas which received appreciation of all. The case of Com. B.Swain was solved only because of involvement of CHQ. It was emphasized that the actions of GS had been in accordance with the existing rules and provisions of the BSNL and Government, as such the communications could be made to the appropriate authorities which get due acknowledgement. Since to put forth our grievances, we need a strong platform, the Association can be strengthened with large number of executive retirees' joining as life members. Presidential address included the discussion of points of last GB meeting and general satisfaction was seen in switching to CGHS. Later Shri P.K.Kar, Secretary highlighted the efforts of the Association in pursuing the cases of reimbursement of one time subscription paid to CGHS authorities. Issue of an empanelled hospital refusing cashless treatment was discussed and it was assured to meet the Addl. Director, CGHS on specific complaints. He thanked General Secretary for his efforts in solving long pending case of Shri Ban amber Swain. It was informed that another case of Shri K.C.Khatua, on similar grounds, deserve CHQ level assistance. Request was made to invite more VRS Executive retiree to the Association as some have taken Membership forms to join later along with other colleagues. Vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Radha Shyam Patra, the senior-most member present in the meeting. A Picnic feast followed after the meeting with participation of family members.

AIBSNLREA, EAST GODAVARI BRANCH MEETS GMTD, RAJAHMUNDRY: Shri GSVSS Vara Prasad, Branch Secretary, AIBSNLREA along with S/Shri Duvvuri Subba Rao, U.Maheswara Rao and VVR Satyanarayana met General Manager, Telecom District, Rajahmundry on 14.02.2020 and held discussions on a few important pressing issues for which a letter was also separately submitted. On the side of Administration, S/Shri Abdus Salam, DGM and Atcha Rao, DFA also participated in the discussions. The issue regarding the pension related matters of VRS optees, along with other issues, remained on the top of the agenda:- Item No. 1: Completion of SAMPANN and SRs of the VRS and other retirees: It was informed that on the request of Administration, a few retired executives have volunteered to assist CCA, Vijayawada for quick disposal of SAMPANN and SRs. CCA, Vijayawada has also assured to settle the pension cases by the end of March, 2020. DFA, Rajahmundry then assured that all-out efforts will be made to send all the cases including SRs to CCA Office by 20.02.2020. To speed up the process and assist the local administration, on the request of DFA Rajahmundry, Shri VVR Satyanarayana, Retd AO joined the team after the meeting. The GMTD also informed that he is reviewing the progress twice a day and asked the representatives of the Association to meet him again in the 4th week of the month to review the left-out cases. Item 2: Sanction of Mobile Plan 1999 to the VRS retirees: The Association requested that Mobile plan 1999 may be sanctioned to

the 2019-VRS retired pensioners and the expenditure be met from the Staff Contributory Welfare Fund as done by many other SSAs. The GMTD replied that he will consider the proposal and a suitable decision will also be taken at the earliest. Item No.3 Deduction of TDS without making actual payment of medical claims: The Association pointed out that claims for reimbursement of outdoor treatment has not been paid since March, 2019. But the 26AS page uploaded in the CPC-TDS site mentions of deduction of TDS against payment of medical claims which are not even paid. The Association also requested to settle all pending bills immediately. The DFA informed that the module is such that the TDS will be shown as deducted once the bills are cleared for payment and uploaded. The Branch Secretary thanked GMTD for sparing time to grant the meeting.

NADIAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD A GB MEETING: Nadiad Branch (Gujarat State) of AIBSNLREA held its Bi-monthly General Body Meeting on 9th February 2020 at Vrundavan Cold Storage, N H 8, at Boriavi. Forty-five members attended the meeting. Three new members were also enrolled in the branch. Shri B. M. Patel, Representative of Nadiad welcomed the members and reported the activities of the Branch. Shri A. M. Mistry, Retd DE, Transmission, Nadiad who sponsored the meeting was then honoured with presentation of religious book. S/Shri P B Parmar, President, S L Sharma State Secretary addressed the house and discussed about pension revision and medical reimbursement issues. The meeting was also addressed by other state representatives S/Shri C J Patel, M T Parmar and M T Patel. Vote of thanks was presented by Shri J D Parmar. Thereafter, dinner was served.

PALAKKAD BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD A GB MEETING: The GB Meeting of Palakkad Branch of AIBSNLREA was held at 10.30 am on 11.02.2020 in Top In Town Auditorium, Palakkad. 12 new members including 10 members who retired under VRS on 31.1.2020 attended the meeting. While welcoming the new members in the association Shri P.Prabhakaran, Branch Secretary assured that the Association will take care of them and all their genuine issues will be addressed and protected through the General Secretary at Central Headquarters. Shri K.Haridasan, the Branch President and also one of the delegates to the All India Conference at Madurai briefed the deliberations of the AIC and the resolutions passed. The members were unanimous that the association should make all efforts for early release of two months' salary due to the VRS pensioners and also for timely payment of pension. As the condition of BSNL MRS is uncertain after 31.3.2020, some Insurance Companies working on health insurance sector attended the meeting on the request of the Secretary and explained the merits of some policies with/without medical check-up which will be beneficial to the pensioners, since CGHS facility is not available in Palakkad or in any of the nearby districts. After the vote of thanks by Shri T.P.Krishnanunni, Asst Secretary, the meeting concluded at 2PM and thereafter lunch was served.

EAST GODAVARI BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA HELD ITS GB MEETING: A General Body meeting of East Godavari District Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 06.02.202 at Hotel Surya, Rajahmundry under the president ship of Shri GV Rama Krishna. The meeting started at 10.00 hours. Branch Secretary Shri G.S.V.S.S.Vara Prasad invited the president and Shri Ch Gandhi, Organizing Secretary (S), CHQ on the dais. After prayer, Branch Secretary briefed the House about the resolutions adopted in the 2nd AIC held at Madurai and also the latest developments on BSNL VRS. He welcomed the new members who have taken VRS recently and joined in the association. 38 members submitted their admission forms for life

membership out of which 15 members paid the Life membership fee. Around 50 more VRS retirees, who are mostly out of station, are expected to join in the association shortly. The House unanimously resolved to pursue release of past two months' salary to the VRS retirees and early settlement of their pension related issues. The members also enthusiastically participated in all the discussions. Branch Secretary gave brief about present status of BSNL MRS and detailed discussions were held on CGHS. Members suggested to wait for some more time to move to CGHS as there is no empaneled hospital in the District. Shri Vital Durga Prasad, GMTD and Shri Abdus Salam, DGM Rajahmundry attended the function. GMTD explained the present status of BSNL in detail and requested the members to cooperate in the overall development of BSNL. Branch Secretary brought to the notice of GMTD about deduction of Income Tax from the Medical bills which were not at all paid to the pensioners. GMTD assured the members that any issue related to pensioners at SSA level will be addressed. S/Sri Ananda Rao B, Raja Gopala Rao A, Srirama Murthy D, Sampat Kumar, Mallikharjuna Rao, Nagabhushanam, Maheswara Rao U, Venkateswara Rao M, Deekshitulu, Prasad BN, Naidu KBS participated in various discussions. The meeting was then declared concluded and Lunch was served to all the participants.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY 2020

Ambala Branch (Haryana State) has deposited Rupees four thousand eight hundred (Rs.4800/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 19.02.2020 as CHQ quota for 24 new Life Members.

Odisha State Branch has deposited Rupees one thousand six hundred (Rs1600/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 14.02.2020 as CHQ quota for 8 new Life Members.

Indore Branch (Madhya Pradesh State) has deposited Rupees six hundred (Rs.600/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 13.02.2020 as CHQ quota for 3 new Life Members.

Palakkad Branch (Kerala State) has deposited Rupees two thousand four hundred (Rs.2400/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 13.02.2020 as CHQ quota for 12 new Life Members.

Erode Branch (Tamilnadu State) has deposited Rupees two thousand one hundred fifty (Rs.2150/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 11.02.2020 as CHQ quota for 12 new Life Members. This is in addition to Rs. 250/- deposited on 12.06.2019.

An amount of Rupees two hundred (200/-) only was deposited in the S/B Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 09.02.2020. The remitter may contact CHQ.

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