



## Editorial

### BSNL IDA PENSIONERS - SOFT TARGET FOR THE MANAGEMENT

**T**o-day, when we – the BSNL IDA pensioners ask ourselves who we are, enthusiastic response comes from all the corners that we are elders, senior citizens and also the assets of the country. These sweet words may give some temporary solace but not the solution to the severe pains that the present BSNL Management is inflicting on the BSNL IDA pensioners. These words, now seem to be adding salt to the wound. We are really taken aback by the raw treatment being meted out to us by BSNL Management. We never imagined that the BSNL Management would be so cruel and indifferent that it would not only continue to deny the benefits for providing Medicare facility to us which once it agreed to allow but also whimsically curtail the same to cause serious discrimination among the pensioners themselves.

**T**here can be no denial that all the Pensioners, at their old age, need proper Medicare facility – the most. Unfortunately, this is virtually not being provided by the present BSNL Management at all for the last one year or more. Neither the claims for reimbursement of outdoor treatment nor the indoor treatment, which were submitted from time to time during the financial 2019-20 or even earlier, have

been paid. The hapless BSNL IDA pensioners, who had no pension revision for the last thirteen years, have to foot these bills out of their meagre pension only with the fond hope that these will be reimbursed soon. This still remains as a hope.

**T**hough not a single claim for reimbursement was paid in the financial year 2019-20, the shameless BSNL Management has surprisingly claimed to have credited some amount to the claimants and has even recovered TDS and deposited with Income Tax Department. Though committing of such a fraud in today's scenario is unthinkable, but it is the hard fact. The 26-AS page of the concerned Income-tax payees in the website of Income Tax Department testifies to this fact.

**O**n one hand when no reimbursement of medical claims is being paid, the BSNL Management, on the other hand has all on a sudden imposed drastic cuts in the Annual ceiling limit for outdoor treatment by linking its present Order with an Order issued in 2003, which is no more in operation. This order had been modified in 2010 with the approval of BSNL Board to mitigate some genuine problems of the BSNL IDA pensioners. Thus, BSNL

Management has again pushed the BSNL IDA pensioners to a tight corner.

**I**n these days, when Government is giving more importance to Medicare System in the country and even introduced “Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana” i.e. Ayushman Bharat Scheme for providing free treatment up to Rupees five lakhs per year to a large section of the population of the country, the attitude of BSNL Management just reveals its inhuman face. A few days back, the Prime Minister of India proudly announced treatment given to one crore patients under the Scheme since the day it was launched. Now the pertinent question that comes in the mind of the BSNL IDA pensioners is that whether they are not the citizens of India and why they would not be given the Medicare facility under BSNL Medical Reimbursement Scheme as promised and also why there would be unjustified cuts imposed basing on an Order which is no more in existence for last 17 years? Our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while acknowledging the contribution of the elders in nation building, had once

addressed the elders through his Message dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 stating 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”*. He also added in his message that *“Thus, it is the nation’s responsibility to look after you”*. He also declared that *“My Government is thus committed to ensuring that your golden years are spent happily, peacefully and meaningfully”*.

**N**ow can the BSNL IDA Pensioners expect the Government to come to their rescue and ensure extension of Medicare facility as promised to them under BSNLMRS and also to protect an Order issued with the approval of BSNL Board in 2010 to correct certain aberrations that were noticed in the 2003 Order of BSNL in respect of its retired employees? Let, true to the commitment of the Prime Minister, the BSNL IDA pensioners be allowed to have “a peaceful and healthy life”. Let them not be allowed to be treated as a soft target by the BSNL Management any further.

### AIBSNLREA LAUNCHES “LODGE YOUR GRIEVANCE” CAMPAIGN

Having failed to receive any positive response from BSNL Management on its numerous representations to reimburse all the pending Medical claims for the financial year 2019-20 or even earlier against outdoor treatment with voucher and without voucher and indoor treatment under BSNLMRS, AIBSNLREA has called upon all the affected beneficiaries to lodge their individual grievance online in CPENGRAMS of Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare to draw the attentions of the authorities on the apathetic attitude of BSNL Management. The details are available in the website of AIBSNLREA. The campaign launched with effect from 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 is receiving enthusiastic support, even though the Grievance portal CPENGRAMS is behaving erratically causing extreme difficulties in lodging the grievance. We request one and all to continue with lodging of their grievance to make the move a success.

## IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE MONTH

- BSNL Corporate Office, conceding to the fresh request from AIBSNLREA, has issued Orders vide its No. BSNL/Admn./2020/Medical dated 04.05.2020 extending the time for revalidation of BSNLMRS Card for all BSNL Retired Employees on pan India basis up to 30.06.2020 or till further orders, whichever is earlier.
- On the intervention of AIBSNLREA, almost all the Pension disbursing Banks have credited the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of April 2020 to all the BSNL IDA pensioners/family pensioners, who did not receive this along with their pension/family pension for April 2020, separately as arrears. Rest of the Banks, few in numbers, would be crediting this along with the pension for May, 2020.
- BSNL Corporate Office, in a sudden and surprise move, has issued Orders vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020 imposing drastic cuts in the annual ceiling limit for outdoor treatment under BSNLMRS for its serving/retired employees. The cuts imposed on the retired employees are very severe, since it has ordered to treat the initial Order issued in 2003 as the base to fix the limit ignoring its own modified order issued on 08.09.2010 with the approval of BSNL Board laying down separate eligibility for the pre-2007 and post-2007 BSNL retirees to mitigate their genuine difficulties.
- Union Finance Minister has announced extension of deadline for filing income tax return for the financial year 2019-20 from July 31, 2020 to November 30, 2020.
- Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, vide its No.12/4/2020-P&PW(C)-6300 dated 15.05.2020, has issued consolidated instructions for Pension Disbursing Authorities to ensure smooth payment of pension/family pension to pensioners/family pensioners.
- Government has ordered further extension of lock down in the country in view of Covid-19 pandemic till June 30, 2020 with a few relaxations.
- Government has announced extension of the "Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana" pension scheme for the senior citizens of 60 years and above in age till March, 2023. This LIC of India managed Scheme offers pension from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 9250/- per month according to the amount of one-time fixed deposit. Current rate of interest is 7.4%.
- CBDT has revised ITR-I to ITR-7 adding a new schedule in respect of investments made from April 1 to June 30, 2020 for which income tax deductions can be claimed in the financial year 2019-20. Earlier, date of investments or payments to be made under Section 80-C (contribution to LIC, PPF, NSC), Section 80-D (Mediclin) and 80-G (donation) were extended to June 30, 2020.

## ISSUES TAKEN UP

**NON-PAYMENT OF REVISED IDA @ 160.7% E.E.F. 01.04.2020 TO THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS ALONG WITH THEIR PENSION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, 2020- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE MATTER WITH CPPC CENTERS OF STATE BANK OF INDIA:** State Bank of India has not paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% effective from 01.04.2020 for the month of May, 2020 along with the pension for May, 2020 to the BSNL IDA pensioners, though the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of April 2020 was earlier duly credited in their accounts separately as arrears. AIBSNLREA has requested SBI that “all the BSNL IDA pensioners who have not been paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of May 2020 along with their Pension for the month of May 2020, since credited in their respective bank accounts with your Branches, be immediately paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of May 2020 as an arrear”. [View posting dated 29.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA TAKES UP WITH SECRETARY (PENSION) THE ISSUE OF RECOVERY OF DUES FROM THE LEAVE-ENCASHMENT OF THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES BASED ON THE WRONG DEMAND MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TELECOMMUNICATION EMPLOYEES' COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED, CHENNAI WHICH INCLUDES THE DUES ALREADY RECOVERED EARLIER FROM THE MONTHLY SALARY OF THE RETIREES WHO WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY:** Since there had been no response from BSNL on its earlier representation to Director (HR), BSNL vide its No. AIBSNLREA/CHQ/2020/21 dated 18.3.2010 to advise all DDOs in Tamilnadu not to recover the amount as claimed by the Society in its defective statement of recovery of dues which included the dues already recovered earlier from the salary of these retirees and also ask the Society to submit corrected Statements for recovery of dues [View posting dated 19.03.2020 of this website to read the letter], AIBSNLREA has now taken up the issue with Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW and others. The Association has stated and maintained that “We now learnt that the said Society Management has been requesting BSNL to transfer to its accounts, also the loan installments recovered earlier by BSNL from the salary of the employees on each month in addition to the recoveries made from their leave encashment as per their wrong claim. Knowing fully well that the installments as earlier claimed by them have already been recovered from the members on specified due dates from their salary, submission of demand letter for recovery of the amount against earlier claims, along with penal interest from the Leave encashment of the VRS retirees, is an illogical and illegal act on the part of the Management of The Government Telecommunication Employees' Co-operative Society Ltd, Chennai”. The Association has also submitted that “Further the Society Management has acted clandestinely by not taking into account the assets held by the members in the Society, while calculating the final dues to be recovered from the Leave Encashment”. The Association has accordingly requested Secretary (Pension) “to kindly appreciate the seriousness of the whole issue and advise conduct of a detailed inquiry in the whole affair and immediate refund of the excess amount recovered from the leave encashment of the BSNL VRS-retirees, who were once the members of the Society, along with interest thereon to the concerned VRS retirees”. [View posting dated 26.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**REQUEST TO ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT OF CLAIMS FOR PURCHASE OF MEDICINES AND CONDUCT OF TESTS ETC. AGAINST OUTDOOR TREATMENT WITH VOUCHER FACILITY UNDER**

**BSNLMRS BASED ON LAST PRESCRIPTION ISSUED BY THE REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS/HOSPITALS – AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL BOARD ON THE ISSUE:** AIBSNLREA has requested Director (HR), BSNL Board to allow, in relaxation of existing procedures, reimbursement of claims for purchase of medicines and conduct of tests etc. against outdoor treatment with voucher facility to both the retired and serving employees under BSNMRS based on the last prescription issued by the Registered Medical Practitioners/Hospitals, since fresh prescription cannot be obtained by visiting the doctors due to lock down. [View posting dated 18.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CMD, BSNL EXPRESSING ITS SERIOUS CONCERN AGAINST THE ORDER ISSUED BY BSNL IMPOSING DRASTIC CUTS IN THE ANNUAL CEILING LIMIT FOR OUTDOOR TREATMENT UNDER BSNLMRS FOR THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES TAKING THE INITIAL BUT SUPERCEDED ORDER ISSUED IN 2003 AS THE BASE THOUGH IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED WITH THE APPROVAL OF BSNL BOARD IN 2010 TO MITIGATE CERTAIN GENUINE DIFFICULTIES OF THE BSNL RETIREES- REQUESTED TO KEEP THE ORDER IN ABEYANCE AND ALSO TO REITERATE APPLICATION OF THE 2010 ORDER:** AIBSNLREA, in a letter addressed to CMD, BSNL, has expressed its total shock and dismay as “BSNL Corporate Office, while imposing drastic reductions in the annual ceiling limit for outdoor treatment under BSNLMRS to its retired employees vide its Office Order No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020, has taken into consideration its old order issued initially in the year 2003 as the base ignoring the fact that with the approval of BSNL Board an Order was issued vide No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 08.09.2010 to mitigate certain very genuine and practical difficulties of the retired employees”. The has Association further expressed that “We are really taken aback with the shock treatment that we, as Senior Citizens, received from BSNL when the declared policy of the Government is to treat us with due care and compassion”.

The Association has elaborated the issue further explaining that “BSNL, in its Order dated 08.05.2020, has taken the “Basic Pay + DA on the date of retirement” which was available in the initial Order as the base for deciding the eligibility for claims with voucher (As per provisions of Para 2.1.0 of Notification No. BSNL/ADMN/I dated 28.02.2003 and guidelines issued vide No. BSNL/ADMN/I dated 22.04.2003 as reiterated at Para 2.2 of BSNL No. BSNL/Admn.I/1 (Pt) dated 23.08.2006). But this action goes heavily against the old retirees who retired prior to revision of pay scales of the serving employees. Thus, the employees who retire in the revised pay scales get an advantage over their past colleagues which violates the principle decided by Hon’ble Supreme Court that pensioners are to be treated as a homogeneous group and they cannot be divided based on their date of retirement. Moreover, in the initial order issued in the year 2003, which was later modified with the approval of BSNL Board, DA was admissible at the rate that was allowed on the date of their retirement. This again placed the retired employees in a very disadvantageous position since the serving employees continued to receive the benefit of revision of IDA as ordered from time to time. Thus, the gap between the retired employees and serving employees in respect of ceiling on annual limit went on increasing. However, these aberrations were subsequently duly corrected with the approval of BSNL Board by issue of BSNL Order No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 08.09.2010. Therefore, to ignore this modified Order and rely on the old provisions which stood superseded, to revise the annual ceiling limit for the retired employees itself is wrong and unethical. We also enclose herewith a copy of the

letter that was issued by BSNL vide its No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 05.10.2010 to our Association after issue of the above stated modified Order vide No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 08.09.2010 for your kind perusal”.

AIBSNLREA has also lodged its protest against the order which took away the little benefit that some retired employees opting for outdoor treatment without voucher were getting since the allowance that was being calculated as “12 ½ days’ pay plus DA with a minimum of Rs.1000/- per month” has now been withdrawn and payment of only Rs 1000/- per month has been ordered to be paid to all without giving weightage to ‘pay plus DA’.

The Association has finally concluded stating that “In view of the above facts and considering the genuine hardships of the BSNL retired employees who too had served BSNL with utmost sincerity and integrity, we earnestly request you to kindly stay implementation of BSNL’s Office Order No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020 and also to reiterate application of BSNL Office Order No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 08.09.2010 which was issued to mitigate the genuine hardships of the retired employees with the approval of BSNL Board. We shall also be extremely thankful to get an opportunity to discuss the issues in question at your earliest convenience”. [View posting dated 16.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**INORDINATE DELAY AT THE LEVEL OF CORPORATE OFFICE IN SETTLEMENT OF REGULAR SUPERANNUATION PENSION AND OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS CASE OF SHRI SHRIKANT B MOHARE, RETD AO, KARNATAKA CIRCLE:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to CMD, BSNL seeking his intervention in the above case in which the SEA Section of BSNL Corporate Office is yet to provide required clarifications, as sought for by CGMT, Karnataka Circle, to settle the case for allowing regular superannuation pension and releasing other pensionary benefits to Shri Shrikant B Mohare, Retd Accounts Officer of Karnataka Telecom Circle who was acquitted of the charges by the Court in October 2018. In this case, even the CVC of Corporate Office has already issued the much-needed Vigilance Clearance in January 2020. The Association has requested CMD, BSNL to intervene in the case “so that necessary clarifications as sought for by Karnataka Telecom Circle are now expeditiously issued by Corporate Office which will help the pensioner to get his legitimate pension and other pensionary benefits which are overdue”. [View posting dated 14.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**NON-PAYMENT OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT TO SHRI SHRIKANT B MOHARE, RETD AO, KARNATAKA TELECOM CIRCLE– AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE WITH CGMT, KARNATAKA CIRCLE:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to CGMT, Karnataka Telecom Circle on the above case in which despite issue of instructions on 03.10.2019 to GMTD, Gulbarga by the Circle Office, leave encashment has not been released to Shri Shrikant B Mohare, Retd Accounts Officer. The Association has sought for the intervention of the CGMT, Karnataka Circle in the matter so that the said pensioner gets his leave encashment immediately. [View posting dated 14.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**REQUEST FOR FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF PAYMENT OF FIRST INSTALMENT OF EX GRATIA PAID ON ADHOC BASIS TO THE VRS-2019 RETIREES OF BSNL AND ENSURING PAYMENT OF SECOND INSTLLMENT BY 30.06.2020 – AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY**

**(TELECOM):** Cabinet decision circulated by DOT envisaged payment of ex-gratia to the BSNL/MTNL VRS-2019 Retirees in two equal instalments of 50% each and also ensuring payment of first instalment in the financial year 2019-20 and second instalment in the first quarter of financial year 2020-21, BSNL actually ordered for payment of only 31.3% of the ex-gratia against first instalment on 'ad hoc' basis by withholding the remaining amount for adjustment against TDS. Therefore, payment for first instalment cannot be said to be full and final. AIBSNLREA has accordingly taken up the matter with Secretary (Telecom) and requested him to 'cause early settlement Though of full and final payment of the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of ex-gratia which was ordered by BSNL to be paid only on "ad hoc basis". We also request that early action be initiated to make payment of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of ex-gratia to all the VRS optees well before the end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of financial year 2020-21 ending on 30.06.2020 as fixed by the Cabinet'. [View posting dated 13.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**ISSUE OF PENSION PAYMENT ORDERS TO THE REST OF THE BSNL VRS-2019 RETIREES WHO ARE STILL DRAWING PROVISIONAL PENSION- AIBSNLREA REQUESTS MEMBER (FINANCE) TO ADVISE ALL CONCERNED TO ACCOMPLISH THE ASSIGNED TASK TO ISSUE THE PPOs WITHIN THE FIXED TARGET DATE OF 31<sup>st</sup> MAY, 2020:** In view of the fact that many BSNL VRS-2019 retirees are still not issued their Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) and consequently are drawing provisional pension, AIBSNLREA has requested Member (Finance), Telecom Commission to "intervene in the matter and advise all the concerned Units to expedite issue of PPOs to the rest of the VRS-2019 retirees drawing provisional pension before expiry of the fixed target date of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020 as was ordered by DOT". [View posting dated 12.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE CASE OF SHRI SHRIKANT B MOHARE, RETD ACCOUNTS OFFICER, KARNATAKA CIRCLE FOR RESTORATION OF PAYMENT OF HIS PROVISIONAL PENSION TILL ORDERS FOR PAYMENT OF HIS FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION AND RELEASE OF OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS ARE ISSUED AS A RESULT OF HIS ACQUITTAL IN THE COURT CASE:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary(Telecom) on the above issue in which the affected pensioner Shri Shrikant B Mohare, Retd AO of Karnataka Circle was pursuing for early settlement of his case for issue of orders for payment of superannuation pension and release of other pensionary benefits which were withheld at the time of his retirement due to pendency of a court case against him. Even though he was pursuing his case immediately after his acquittal by the Court in October 2016, his efforts so far did not meet with success. On the other hand, he was not paid even his provisional pension for the months of March and April 2020. The Association has urged Secretary (Telecom) to intervene in the matter and 'advise Controller of Communication Accounts, Karnataka and others concerned to immediately restore his provisional pension and pay the arrears of pension for last two months without further delay till his case for grant of final superannuation pension is settled and release of other pensionary benefits ordered'. [View posting dated 12.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA REQUESTS CMD, BSNL FOR ALLOWING PROVISION OF CONCESSIONAL FTTH CONNECTION FOR BROAD BAND SERVICES AT THE RESIDENCES OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES:** In a letter addressed to CMD, BSNL and copy endorsed to Director (HR), BSNL Board, AIBSNLREA has pointed out that though concessional Broad Band connections at the

residences of the retired BSNL employees was allowed long back, same has so far not been allowed in case of FTTH connections to provide Broad Band services. The Association has requested to allow provision of concessional broad band services over FTTH also to the retired BSNL employees at their residences. [View posting dated 11.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO MOC&IT REGARDING THE ILL-DESIGNED MOVE TO STALL THE PROCESS OF PROCURING EQUIPMENT THROUGH OPEN TENDER TO PROVIDE 4-G INTERNET SERVICE BY BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED AND SEEKS HIS INTERVENTION:** Being disturbed by the news appearing in a section of media that the move of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited to procure equipment to provide much needed 4-G services for its own revival, as acknowledged even by Cabinet as the need of the hour, through open tender has received a road-block due to some objections raised by certain lobbies on the conditionality in the tender document, AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to MOC&IT to express its serious concern and seeking his intervention in the matter. The Association has said that “We strongly believe that the lobby which never want BSNL to survive and kicking is behind the move. The unforeseen hands of some private operators and their mentor politicians could also be behind this move. This reminds us of how these lobbies and politicians during the regime of earlier Government could successfully thwart successive moves by BSNL to procure the much-needed equipment through open tenders to expand its services. The fallout of the success of those ill-conceived moves cost BSNL dearly and consequently BSNL was found to slip down from the position of second top-most service provider of internet services to an insignificant position as a service provider”. The Association has further maintained that “In the era of stiff competition in which quality and standard have strong say, BSNL needs to procure best of the equipment available in the market to stay in the competition and also to become the first choice of the customers. BSNL cannot afford to induct sub-standard equipment in the name of indigenouness and then fail to meet the expectation of all the stake holders including the valued customers”. [View posting dated 10.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CMD, BSNL ON THE ISSUE OF NON-PAYMENT OF CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF TELEPHONE BILLS OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES RESIDING IN MTNL SERVED AREAS IN DELHI AND MUMBAI:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to CMD, BSNL on the issue of non-reimbursement of telephone bills for the concessional telephone connections provided at the residences of the retired BSNL employees in the areas served by MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai. The Association has mentioned in its letter that “in accordance with the arrangement made between BSNL and MTNL Management, the BSNL retirees residing in MTNL served areas are required to pay the bills and then claim for their reimbursement from the BSNL units from which they retired. But for the first time in the financial year 2019-20, not a single claim for reimbursement of telephone bills submitted by the retired BSNL employees to their respective Units has been paid. This has added to the acute financial problem of these BSNL retirees who have also not been paid their claims for reimbursement of medical treatment for the same financial year”. The Association has finally requested CMD to “cause payment of all the pending claims for reimbursement of telephone bills of the retired BSNL employees residing in MTNL served areas at the earliest”. [View posting dated 09.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA THANKS CMD, BSNL FOR CONCEDED THE REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DATE OF REVALIDATION OF BSNLMRS CARDS FOR THE BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEES ON PAN INDIA BASIS AND ALSO URGES HIM TO DRAW A ROAD MAP TO CLEAR ALL THE PENDING CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS/PAYMENT OF MEDICAL ALLOWANCES OF THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES:** AIBSNLREA has since addressed a letter to CMD, BSNL thanking him for conceding its request and issue Orders, vide No. BSNL/Admn/2020/Medical dated 04.05.2020, extending the date for revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards for the retired BSNL Employees, who are covered under BSNLMRS, on pan India basis. The Association also points out to the plight of the retired BSNL employees, many of whom are patients of chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension, cancer, heart, kidney and liver problems etc. and stated that “we are unable to refrain from once again expressing our serious concern that till to-day the retired BSNL Employees have not been paid even a single medical bill for their outdoor treatment that they submitted from time to time during the whole financial year 2019-20. Even the Medical Allowance to the retired BSNL employees, who opted for the same, has not been paid even for a single quarter. Incidentally, both of these are taxable benefits. On the other hand, many retired BSNL employees who had been hospitalized for indoor treatment and submitted their claim for reimbursement are still waiting to get their bills reimbursed.” The Association further submitted that “Surprisingly, though no outdoor claim to any retired employee has been reimbursed during the whole financial year 2019-20, BSNL has claimed to have credited some amounts and even deducted TDS out of these purported payments and also deposited the same to the Income Tax Department. The 26-AS page of the retired BSNL employees uploaded in the e-filing page of Income Tax Department has clear mention about this”. The Association finally requested CMD “to kindly draw a road map to immediately clear all the pending claims for reimbursement of medical bills/payment of medical allowances of the retired BSNL employees and thus allow them to live with mental peace without having to face deep financial crisis and to carry on with their indispensable medical treatment”. [View posting dated 07.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CENTRAL PENSION PROCESSING CENTERS OF ALL THE PENSION DISBURSING BANKS REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF REVISED IDA W.E.F. 01.04.2020 TO THE BSNL IDA PENSIONERS:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a common letter to the CPPCs of all Pension Disbursing Banks expressing serious concern of all the BSNL IDA pensioners whose revised IDA effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 was not paid along with their pension with no reasons and authority. The Association has requested that “all the BSNL IDA pensioners who have not yet been paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of April 2020 along with their Pension which is already disbursed be immediately released the enhanced IDA for the month of April 2020”. [View posting dated 05.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

**ARBITRARY AND WHIMSICAL DECISION OF DOT TO DENY GRANT OF REVISED IDA AS IDR AS ORDERED BY DPE W.E.F. 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020 TO THE BSNL/MTNL IDA PENSIONERS RETIRING IN APRIL 2020- AIBSNLREA TAKES UP THE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY (PENSION) FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE ORDER:** AIBSNLREA has addressed a letter to Secretary (Pension) with copy endorsed to Secretary (Telecom), Member (Finance) and CMD, BSNL lodging its protest against the arbitrary and whimsical Order issued by DOT on 28.04.2020 denying grant of revised IDA @ 160.7% IDA w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 as allowed by DPE to the BSNL/MTNL

Pensioners retiring in April 2020. The Association has pointed out that this action of DOT tantamount to be an attempt to divide the pensioners considered to be a homogeneous class as ordered by Supreme Court in a number of cases and also violative of the equality law under Article 14 of the Constitution of India. The Association has finally demanded the withdrawal of the said DOT Order. [View posting dated 02.05.2020 in this website to read the letter.](#)

## RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

**CPPC, STATE BANK OF INDIA, BHOPAL RESPONDS TO THE MAIL OF AIBSNLREA:** In view of the fact that SBI has not paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of May 2020 along with pension, all the Central Pension Processing Centres of State Bank of India this morning were requested by AIBSNLREA that "all the BSNL IDA pensioners who have not been paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of May 2020 along with their Pension for the month of May 2020, since credited in their respective bank accounts with your Branches, be immediately paid the revised IDA @ 160.7% for the month of May 2020 as an arrear" [View posting below]. Now CPPC, State Bank of India, Bhopal has acknowledged receipt of our mail and assured their support all the times. [View posting dated 29.05.2020 in this website to read the CPPC, Bhopal mail.](#)

**DOP&PW FORWARDS COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA ENDORSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) TO DOT WHICH WAS ASDDRESSED TO DIRECTOR (HR), BSNL REQUESTING CHANGE IN THE POLICY REQUIRING THE RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES HAVING CONCESSIONAL TELEPHONE FACILTY AND RESIDING IN THE AREAS SERVED BY MTNL TO PAY THE BILLS AND GET REIMBURSEMENT:** In order to resolve the problem being faced by the retired BSNL employees, who are residing in the areas served by MTNL and having concessional telephone facility, in the matter of payment of bills and their subsequent reimbursement, AIBSNLREA had requested Director (HR) that "arrangements be made with MTNL so that the bills which are within the prescribed free-call limit as decided by BSNL and the user-BSNL retirees are not finally liable to pay for the number of calls made, MTNL should send such bills only to the concerned BSNL Units for book transfer or otherwise." The Association had further suggested that once MTNL is merged with BSNL as decided by Union Cabinet, the BSNL retirees residing in the areas served by MTNL be also extended the same arrangement as available to the BSNL retirees residing in the areas served by BSNL for the purpose of settlement of their telephone bills. A copy of this representation was endorsed to Secretary (Pension) also [View posting dated 04.03.2020 in this website to read the letter]. DOP&PW, in turn, had forwarded the copy of the said letter endorsed to Secretary (Pension) to DOT to examine as per extant rules/orders. The matter is at present under examination by GM (Admn), BSNL. [View posting dated 19.05.2020 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter.](#)

**DOP&PW FORWARS COPY OF THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA ENDORSED TO SECRETARY (PENSION) TO DOT WHICH WAS ADDRESSED 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:** Since DOT had earlier expressed its intent not to take action on our request to resolve the above issue terming this as a suggestion for 'change of policy' and not a grievance, AIBSNLREA again

took up the matter with Prime Minister of India maintaining 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 had affirmed that the Association only wanted a genuine grievance of discrimination meted out to a particular section of the retired BSNL Executives be removed. The Association, accordingly, sought the intervention of the Prime Minister of India to resolve this long pending issue. [View posting dated 29.02.2020 in this website to read the letter]. DOP&PW, on its turn, has forwarded the copy of the representation which was endorsed to Secretary (Pension) to DOT to examine the issues as per extant rules/orders and inform the Association. The issue is now being examined by DOT. [View posting dated 19.05.2020 in this website to read the DOP&PW letter.](#)

**RESPONSE FROM DY CCA, KARNATAKA CIRCLE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF AIBSNLREA TO THE SECRETARY (TELECOM) REGARDING RESTORATION OF PROVISIONAL PENSION TILL ORDERS FOR PAYMENT OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION AND RELEASE OF OTHER PENSIONARY BENEFITS ARE ISSUED TO SHRI SHRIKANT B MOHARE, RETD ACCOUNTS OFFICER, KARNATAKA CIRCLE:** AIBSNLREA had taken up the case of Shri Shrikant B Mohare, Retd AO of Karnataka Circle with Secretary (Telecom) and others, who was pursuing for early settlement of his case for issue of orders for payment of his superannuation pension and release of other pensionary benefits following his acquittal by the Court of the charges against him after his retirement, was not paid even his provisional pension for the month of March and April 2020. The Association had requested Secretary (Telecom) to intervene in the matter and ‘advise Controller of Communication Accounts, Karnataka and others concerned to immediately restore his provisional pension and pay the arrears of pension for last two months without further delay till his case for grant of final superannuation pension is settled and release of other pensionary benefits ordered’ [View posting dated 12.05.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Immediately thereafter a mail was received by the Association from Dy. CCA(Pension), Karnataka Circle informing that “this office has released Provisional Pension for 2 months i.e. March and April 2020 on 06.05.2020 ...” [View posting dated 13.05.2020 in this website to read the response from Dy CCA \(Admn\), Karnataka.](#)

**RESPONSE FROM SOME CPPCs OF PENSION DISBURSING BANKS ON AIBSNLREA’S LETTER REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF REVISED IDA FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2020:** AIBSNLREA had addressed a common letter to all the Central Pension Processing Centres of Pension Disbursing Banks on the issue of non-payment of IDA revised @ 160.7% w.e.f. 01.04.2020 to the BSNL IDA pensioners [View posting dated 05.05.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Some of these CPPCs have since responded to the letter on the e-mail id of AIBSNLREA. These are appended as follows: - (1) ICICI Bank: “Thank you for the E-Mail. On account of COVID-19 outburst in India, we have only limited staff handling the transactions. Hence there would be delay in responding e-mails”. (2) Bank of Maharashtra: “Sir, We are paying correct DA rate. If possible, refer specific case with a/c no & name of pensioner”. (3) Andhra Bank: “Dear Sir, with reference to the above, we inform you that we have already paid IDA to the BSNL pensioners on 29.04.2020. This is for your information only”. (4) Corporation Bank: “Dear Sir, with respect to your trailing mail, we wish to inform you that

our bank has implemented the revised IDA and we are paying 160.7%”. (5) Canara Bank: “Dear Sir, DA arrears are under process and the same will be credited by next payment order”. (6) Punjab & Sind Bank: “Dear Sir/Madam, We are already paying revised IDA rate. Same could be found in April 2020 Scroll”. In addition to the above responses, an official from CPPC of Punjab National Bank has informed our AGS Shri V P Arya on phone that the Bank would be paying the arrear along with May,2020 pension. [View also posting dated 08.05.2020 in this website.](#)

**BSNL ACCEDES TO THE REQUEST OF AIBSNLREA TO EXTEND REVALIDATION OF BSNLMRS MEDICAL CARD FOR ALL THE BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEEES IN DIFFERENT BSNL CIRCLES/UNITS:** It may be recalled that AIBSNLREA had represented to CMD, BSNL to extend revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards issued to the BSNL retired employees till 30.06.2020 in the same line as Government had issued Orders in respect of submission of Form-15G and Form-15H by the tax-payers to the Banks till June 30.06.2020. [View posting dated 17.04.2020 in this website to read the letter]. But the BSNL Corporate Office partially conceded to this request and issued Orders extending the validity till 30.06.2020 or further Orders, whichever is earlier restricting its application only in respect of the BSNL retired employees of Corporate Office [View posting dated 21.04.2020 in this website to read the BSNL CO Order]. Following this, AIBSNLREA again addressed a letter to CMD, BSNL requesting to allow application of this Order to all the BSNL retired employees since retired from different Circles/Units [View posting dated 22.04.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now BSNL Corporate Office has finally conceded to the request and has issued an Order for extension of revalidation of BSNLMRS Card for all BSNL Retired Employees on pan India basis up to 30.06.2020 or till further orders, whichever is earlier. [View posting dated 05.05.2020 in this website to read the BSNL letter.](#)

### GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS

**DOT MODIFIES ITS WHIMSICAL ORDER ISSUED ON 28.04.2020 TO DENY THE BENEFIT OF REVISED IDA @ 160.7% EFFECTIVE FROM 01.04.2020 AS ORDERED BY DPE TO THE BSNL/MTNL EMPLOYEES RETIRING IN APRIL 2020 – NOW SAYS THAT ALL PENSION RELATED BENEFITS BE RELEASED AS PER DEARNESS RELIEF AS PER LATEST EXTANT ORDER FROM DPE:** DOT has now been virtually forced to withdraw its whimsical Order issued, vide its No. 1/Misc/Pen/Issue/BSNL/DDG(Accounts)/2019-Part-I/1407-1439 dated 28.04.2020, wherein it was ordered that for those BSNL/MTNL employees retiring in April 2020, the retirement benefits be paid at old Dearness Relief as on 1.1.2020 on the plea that DPE has not issued any instruction on freezing of IDA, in the similar lines as issued for the Government employees/pensioners, to be applicable to the BSNL and MTNL pensioners drawing pension from Government of India. This Order caused the Pension Disbursing Banks to stop payment of revised IDA @ 160.7% even to those pensioners who retired before April 2020 and also received revised IDA that was effective from 01.01.2020. AIBSNLREA had taken serious objection to this Order and represented to Secretary (Pension), DOP&PW and others for immediate withdrawal of this Order by DOT on the ground that the Pensioners retiring in April 2020 cannot be discriminated against, since the pensioners are considered as a homogeneous class as per various Supreme Court Orders

and cannot be divided in the matter of extending benefits [View posting dated 02.05.2020 in this website to read the letter]. Now DOT has issued another Office Memorandum, vide its No. 1/Misc/Pen/Issue/BSNL/DDG(Accounts)/ 2019-Part-I/1585-1615 dated 28.04.2020, to modify its earlier Order stating that “it has been decided in partial modification of previous order under reference all pension related benefits be released as per rate of Dearness Relief as per extant Order from DPE i.e. @ 160.7%”. Thus, the BSNL/MTNL pensioners retiring in April 2020 get justice. [View posting dated 26.05.2020 in this website to read the DOT Order.](#)

**DOP&PW ISSUES CONSOLIDATED INSTRUCTIONS FOR PENSION DISBURSING AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE SMOOTH PAYMENT OF PENSION/FAMILY PENSION TO THE PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS:** Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare, vide its No.12/4/2020-P&PW (C )-6300 dated 15.05.2020, has issued consolidated instructions for Pension Disbursing Authorities to ensure smooth payment of pension/family pension to pensioners/family pensioners. This satisfies many queries and doubts being raised from time to time even by the pensioners/family pensioners regarding disbursement of their pension/family pension. We believe that this consolidated instruction will be of great help even to the pensioners/family pensioners. [View posting dated 16.05.2020 in this website to read the DOP&PW Order.](#)

**BSNL ISSUES ORDERS MODIFYING THE PROCEDURE FOR OUTDOOR MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR THE SERVING/RETIRED BSNL EMPLOYEES – IMPOSES DRASTIC CUTS:** BSNL has since issued an Order, vide its No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020, imposing drastic cut in the ceiling for outdoor medical claim with voucher in a financial year for both the serving and retired BSNL Employees. The revised annual ceiling limit would be 15 days basic pay plus DA for the serving employees. Annual ceiling limit for the retired employees would be 15 days basic plus DA on date of retirement. The order goes heavily against the retired employees since the Order earlier issued vide No. BSNL/Admn.I/14-2/09 dated 08.09.2010 allowing two separate options for those who retired after 01.01.2007 and those retired prior to 01.01.2007 has been totally ignored. Even the DA as applicable for the financial year for which claims pertain to, as being allowed at present, has also been over looked for the retired employees. The retired employees opting for claim without voucher would be paid flat Rs. 1000/- per month. [View posting dated 12.05.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

**PRINCIPAL CONTROLLER OF COMMUNICATION ACCOUNTS, TAMILNADU CIRCLE ISSUES FAQ CONCERNING SAMPANN PENSIONERS FOR PROMPT SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL LIFE CERTIFICATE:** Principal Controller of Communication Accounts, Tamilnadu Circle has issued a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in respect of all SAMPANN Pensioners from DOT/BSNL to ensure prompt submission of Life Certificate every year before its expiry to avoid stoppage of pension. Those retired on or after 01.02.2019 are covered under SAMPANN. Those retired earlier to this date, need to submit their Annual Life Certificate in their respective pension Disbursing Bank Branch/Post Office of through Jeevan Praman as before. This FAQ seems to be valid for all other CCAs. [View posting dated 09.05.2020 in this website to read the FAQ by Pr. CCA, TN.](#)

**BSNL ISSUES CLARIFICATIONS FOR DEALING WITH THE CASES FOR PAYMENT OF LEAVE ENCASHMENT IN RESPECT OF VRS-2019 OPTTEES WHOSE VIGILANCE CLEARANCE IS WITHHELD:** BSNL, vide its F.No. BSNL CO-EB-I/11(20)/5/2020-ESTAB dated 06.05.2020, has issued an order clarifying the manner in which the cases for payment of leave encashment in respect of the VRS-19 optees which are withheld pending vigilance clearance are to be dealt with. The authorities competent to sanction encashment of EL/HPL in respect of the retired employees have been empowered to review all such cases where leave encashment has not been released on account of withholding of vigilance clearance in respect of retired employees in consultation with the concerned disciplinary authority, if need be, for ascertaining the amount likely to become recoverable from the retired employee on conclusion of disciplinary proceedings. [View posting dated 06.05.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order](#)

**BSNL ACCEDES TO THE REQUEST OF AIBSNLREA TO EXTEND REVALIDATION OF BSNLMRS MEDICAL CARD FOR ALL THE BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEES IN DIFFERENT BSNL CIRCLES/UNITS:** In response to the request of AIBSNLREA to extend revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards issued to the BSNL retired employees till 30.06.2020 in the same line as Government had issued Orders in respect of submission of Form-15G and Form-15H by the tax-payers to the Banks till June 30.06.2020, BSNL Corporate Office had earlier issued an order extending the validity of BSNLMRS Cards till 30.06.2020 or issue of further orders whichever is earlier but restricted its application only to the retired BSNL employees from Corporate Office. Following this, AIBSNLREA again took up the issue with CMD, BSNL requesting to allow application of this Order to all the BSNL retired employees since retired from different Circles/Units. Finally, BSNL Corporate Office has conceded to this request and has issued an Order for extension of revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards for all BSNL Retired Employees on pan India basis up to 30.06.2020 or till further orders, whichever is earlier. [View posting dated 05.05.2020 in this website to read the BSNL Order.](#)

### STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING MAY 2020

Shri Rakesh Sethi, Retd DGM, BSNL Corporate Office has deposited Rupees five hundred fifty (Rs. 550/-) only in the Savings Bank Account of CHQ with Syndicate Bank on 15.05.2020 as Life Membership fee and admission fee.

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