



Editorial

A RAY OF HOPE AMID STEEP PRICE RISE

Just a year back, while discussing the travails of BSNL Pensioners, in an Editorial, we had expressed concern over skyrocketing of healthcare costs and the fact that BSNL which is supposed to take care of the medical expenses of its retired employees, is making all planned moves to offload its responsibility towards its past employees, starting with delaying the medical reimbursement claims with vouchers and also the medical allowance without vouchers, of retired employees since the year 2018-19. Except that BSNL has cleared claims updated in ERP for 2018-19 and made part payments of reimbursement without voucher for the same period and partial claims for the period 2019-20, there has been no major improvement. Experiences with the CGHS as reported by members too are not that encouraging. BSNL appears to be in no mood to consider our request for a suitable Health Insurance Policy for the BSNL pensioners, in line with the one launched for the serving employees.

We had then expressed happiness that we are self-reliant unlike the majority of other pensioners and senior citizens who are to depend on others for their daily needs. This, despite the fact that the returns from the deposits of our

hard-earned money were dwindling day by day due to drastic reduction in deposit interest rates. The optimism of financial self-reliance has now started shrinking, because of steep rise in prices of all essential commodities which form part of our daily needs.

Those of us who own a personal vehicle, including two wheelers, are directly feeling the impact of rising petrol and diesel prices. Many of us have been forced to either cut down on fuel consumption or reduce spending on other discretionary items. Even those of us who do not own a personal vehicle are likely to spend more for using public and private transport like cabs. Rise in fuel prices has directly impacted costs incurred towards essential goods that have to be transported over long distances, resulting in higher spending due to increased commodity prices, surge in online delivery charges and public transport. The Government on its part has increased our burden on transport by withdrawing the senior citizen concession in trains.

Prices of essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulses, oil, vegetables, fruit, milk, fish and meat have increased by 50 to 100 percent. All India Consumer Price Index, based on which our Dearness Allowance is calculated, had never reflected the real price rise either in the past or in the present. Even according to

this AICPI released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) recently, consumer food price has increased by 100% in the last one year. Official estimates released by the Government of India recently on the state of inflation in the economy both the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the CPI showed high and rising annual inflation rates of 13.11 per cent and 6.07 per cent respectively. The inflation at the food level was also high at 8.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent, respectively. Though we do not understand the economics of inflation and the statistics, as a common man we are able to feel the pinch of the spiralling prices.

As the expenses increase and the revenue decreases, it is natural that the BSNL pensioners look for additional income in the form for Pension revision, more than ever now, in spite of understanding the fact that pension revision is not possible without pay revision of the serving employees. It appears that the unions and associations are again back to square one, according to the minutes of the Joint Wage Revision Committee meeting held recently. With already five years gone and pay revision not in sight, we need to look for some alternative.

In February 2022, Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice in its 110th Report had recommended to consider the demand of Pensioners' Associations for additional quantum of Pension to the Pensioners/family pensioners @ 5%, 10%

and 15% on attaining the age of 65 years, 70 years and 75 years respectively. In this connection DoP&PW vide its letter dated 20.01.2022 had called for details of age-wise number of pensioners, amount of pension paid in December 2021 with DR and without DR, for working out the financial implications. Referring to this DoP&PW letter, DoT had requested the CGCA New Delhi to provide the information in respect of telecom pensioners by 07.02.2022. The matter was discussed in the 32nd Meeting of SCOVA and as per the official minutes of the meeting "On the issue of Enhancement of Additional Pension on attaining age of 65 years, 70 years and 75 years, JS (Pension), DoPPW has informed that the proposal is under consideration in consultation with DoE and DoEA on the aspects of funds availability in the Budget."

As far as BSNL pensioners are concerned, this will provide an additional 5% increase in pension every five years, irrespective of pay revision of the BSNL employees. All the Central Government pensioners' Associations need to work together so that the matter is pursued further and settled at the earliest, as it has been stated that the consultation with DoE and DoEA is only on the aspect of funds availability in the Budget and not the financial implications of the proposal.

This is a little ray of hope and it is the duty of all of us, the CG Pensioners' Associations, to ensure that the proposals see the light of the day.■



Important Development of the Month

IDA RATES DUE FROM 01.07.2022

According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for the months March 2022, April and May 2022, the revised IDA rate due w.e.f. 01.07.2022 is 190.8%% [increase by 5.5%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007 and 391%% [increase by 9.3%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.1997.



Issues taken up

29.06.2022: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL CGHS SUGGESTING IMPROVEMENTS IN FUNCTIONING OF CGHS:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of DG CGHS towards the fact that BSNL pensioners who have switched over to CGHS have a lot of expectations from CGHS. Although CGHS has shown improvement through years, many inadequacies still exist in providing the desired facilities to the beneficiaries. Based on inputs from members, who have become CGHS beneficiaries, AIBSNLREA has submitted suggestions for improvement in the functioning of CGHS so that the senior citizens/pensioners get easy and proper medical care in the fag end of their lives. [View the letter](#)

22.06.2022: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY (PENSION), DoP&PW REQUESTING SUITABLE DIRECTIONS TO BSNL TO PAY ALL THE PENDING MEDICAL CLAIMS OF BSNL PENSIONERS:

In response to our earlier representation on the issue, DoT had replied that "it is learnt from the concerned cell that payment shall be done shortly." Since then BSNL has made some payments for the year 2018-19 and a few payments for the year 2019-20. AIBSNLREA has now again taken up the matter with Secretary (Pension), requesting him that suitable directions be issued to BSNL to make payment for all the pending medical claims, both indoor and outdoor, in a time bound manner in order to ease the burden on the BSNL pensioners. BSNL may also be directed to specify a timeline for making the payments. [View the letter](#)

21.06.2022: REIMBURSEMENT OF ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF CGHS SUBSCRIPTION WITHIN ONE MONTH FOR THOSE WHO OPT TO SWITCH OVER BY 31st JULY 2022:

BSNL CO has conveyed its decision that those retirees/VRS optees who have not opted for CGHS so far, if they switch over to CGHS by 31st July, 2022, reimbursement of one-time payment of their CGHS subscription will be paid within one month of submission of their claim with BSNL. [View the BSNL letter](#)

16.06.2022: AIBSNLREA SEEKS ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA TO DISCRIMINATION BY DOT AGAINST BSNL EXECUTIVES WHO RETIRED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 2017 TO APRIL 2018 AND REQUESTS SUITABLE DIRECTION TO DOT TO REMOVE THE BLATANT AND GROSS DISCRIMINATION:

After knocking the doors of DoT several times and the Secretary (Pension), AIBSNLREA has now been compelled to seek attention of Hon'ble Prime Minister to a long pending grievance of a section of the retired BSNL Executives, who retired during the period from July 2017 to April 2018 but agonizingly denied the benefit of fixation of pension by taking into account the extra increment granted on their post-based promotion under BSNL Executive Promotion Policy-2007, while the other Executives who retired earlier to July 2017 and subsequent to April 2018 were allowed the benefit and has requested him to intervene in the matter and render justice to the concerned affected pensioners by directing the Department of Telecommunications to remove the blatant and gross discrimination immediately. [View the letter](#)

15.06.2022: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY DOT REQUESTING TO ENSURE SMOOTH MIGRATION TO SAMPANN:

Drawing the attention of Secretary, DoT to the process of phased migration of pre-rollout BSNL Pensioners to SAMPANN/CPMS which has been initiated by all the CCAs nation-wide and is in progress, by calling for KYP (Know Your Pensioner) forms and related documents from the concerned pensioners, different CCAs using different format for the same, AIBSNLREA has requested him to ensure that the migration is smooth and trouble-free and that no pensioner is harassed in the name of migration. [View the letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

21.06.2022: REIMBURSEMENT OF ONE-TIME PAYMENT OF CGHS SUBSCRIPTION WITHIN ONE MONTH FOR THOSE WHO OPT TO SWITCH OVER BY 31st JULY 2022:

BSNL CO has conveyed its decision that those retirees/VRS optees who have not opted for CGHS so far, if they switch over to CGHS by 31st July, 2022, reimbursement of one-time payment of their CGHS subscription will be paid within one month of submission of their claim with BSNL. [View the BSNL letter](#)

21.06.2022: BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE WRITES TO CGMs REQUESTING THEM TO COORDINATE WITH SALES TEAM/REPRESENTATIVES OF HOSPITALS FOR EMPANELMENT OF MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOSPITALS UNDER BSNL MRS:

BSNL CO has requested the CGMs of all Circles/Units to coordinate with the Sales Team/representatives of the hospitals in the BA/SSA/towns/City for empanelment of maximum number of hospitals on CGHS rates preferably on credit basis and to make special efforts to bring reputed and eminent hospitals in the empanelled list. It further states that the process of invoice processing and payment to hospitals providing credit

facility be streamlined to make it a time bound system so that they continue to provide cashless healthcare facility. [View the BSNL letter](#)

20.06.2022: REVISION OF PENSION/FAMILY PENSION IN RESPECT OF THE PENSIONERS DRAWING COMPULSORY RETIREMENT PENSION OR COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCE AFTER COMPULSORY RETIREMENT/DISMISSAL/REMOVAL FROM SERVICE:

In addition to the existing instructions on the subject and based on representations from some pensioners and also some court decisions, DoP&PW has reconsidered the matter in consultation with Department of Expenditure and has decided that provisions contained in various orders after 5th CPC, 6th CPC and 7th CPC regarding revision of pension/family pension, would also be applicable for revision of pension/family pension in respect of pensioners who were drawing compulsory retirement pension or compassionate allowance. Pension/family pension of such pensioners will accordingly be revised w.e.f. 1.1.1996, 1.1.2006 and 1.1.2016. [_View the DoP&PW OM](#)



RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

24.06.2022: CCA KARNATAKA IN THE PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT OF FINAL SUPERANNUATION PENSION, RELEASE OF DCRG AND GRANT OF COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSION – CASES OF SHRI S V ROJED, RETD SDE, QUALITY ASSURANCE CIRCLE (HR NO. 197503181) AND SHRI G P BIRADAR, RETD AGM, BANGALORE TELECOM DISTRICT: AIBSNLREA had drawn the attention of Secretary, DoT to the above issue, in which CCA Karnataka Circle was seeking 'Clear'/'final' vigilance clearance in spite of BSNL Corporate Office issuing the vigilance clearance and final retirement order, resulting in undue delay in settlement of regular pension for both the affected pensioners. DoT had closed the case on 23.06.2022 with the remarks that CCA, KTK, Bangalore has sought guidance from DOT for release of pensionary benefits in such cases where appeal against the acquittal is pending. On receipt of clarification from DOT, the pensionary benefits will be released. Meanwhile a over-the-phone communication from CCA Karnataka confirms that clarification has been received and the cases are under process. [View the disposal](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

17.06.2022: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA KOLHAPUR BRANCH HELD:

AIBSNLREA Kolhapur Branch held its Annual General Body meeting in Telephone Bhavan Conference Hall, Kolhapur on 8th May 2022. Meeting was presided over by Sri.

L M Godi, and 43 members were present with 7 new members joining the Association.

Meeting started at 11 AM as usual with due Prayer. In the meeting President welcomed all the Members and new Two Members Mrs. Khamakar and RP Jadhav Kolhapur. New members were welcomed by President with Flowers, they were introduced to the House.[View Maharashtra Section of State News page to read the full report]

14.06.2022: AIBSNLREA ERODE BRANCH HELD ITS AGB MEETING:

Annual General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Erode Branch was held on 1.6.2022 in Kohinoor Hotel, Erode. Issues related to BSNL pensioners were discussed in detail. New office bearers were elected unanimously. [View the list of office bearers](#)

04.06.2022: AIBSNLREA TAMILNADU STATE ORGANISATION INAUGURATED:

Inaugural meeting of AIBSNLREA Tamilnadu State organisation was held on 01.06.2022 at Erode. Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President and Shri R.R.Balasubramanian AGS were present in the meeting. The Branch secretaries of Tamilnadu, and a number of active members attended the meeting. The plight of the pensioners, the status of pension revision, non-payment of medical bills/allowances, the day to day issues faced by the pensioners in CGHS Scheme and some issues of the individual pensioners were discussed. The CHQ Office bearers, Branch Secretaries spoke on the occasion. Shri S.Mahalingam Former Circle Secretary of NFTE BSNL felicitated the meeting. After discussions, office bearers of AIBSNLREA Tamillnadu State organisation were elected unanimously. Erode branch had made nice arrangements for successful conduct of the meeting. [View the list of office bearers](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING JUNE 2022

Chennai Branch (Tamilnadu State) deposited Rupees three thousand two hundred (Rs.3200/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 16.06.2022 as CHQ Quota for 16 new Life Members.

West Bengal State Branch deposited Rupees two thousand four hundred (Rs.2400/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 13.06.2022 as CHQ Quota for 12 new Life Members.

Erode Branch (Tamilnadu State) deposited Rupees two hundred (Rs.200/-) only in S/B Account of CHQ with Canara Bank on 11.06.2022 as CHQ Quota for 1 new Life Member.

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