PENSIONERS' iskull PATRIKA if=ak

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MASSIVE DHARNA ON 22-11-2018

NEW DELHI

MUMBAI



ONE CHOICE, ONE VOICE REVISE BSNL/MTNL PENSION WITH CPC FITMENT BENEFITS

ONCE VOICE, ONE CHOICE



PENSIONERS' PATRIKA: VOL. III No. 1

PENSIONERS PATRIKA

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Editorial

UNITY IS THE ASTOUNDING SUCCESS

The nationwide programme of FAST organized on 22-11-2018 by AIBSNLPWA provided a forum for the united action by all organizations of BSNL/MTNL retirees in India and to join together. The unprecedented massive participation by members of various organizations made the programme a great success, spectacular and splendid. It was not only unity of heads, joining together to do something but also an amazing unity of minds of BSNL/MTNL retirees, joining together to help each other, and of course, to achieve something remarkable.

Formation of an umbrella organization, Committee of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners Associations, is a quantum leap in the right direction. For, unity is the need of the hour. BSNL/MTNL pensioners are placed in a very unique situation. Hence, we placed a unique demand before the Government. It is a new concept and a new path. Achieving something unique is not that easy. It is not impossible also. United will and united action can make anything possible. Seven organizations have already joined the new committee. One or two are keeping aloof now. We expect that they will soon realize the danger in raising a differing demand and spoiling the future. We do hope that they will also join the mainstream of BSNL/MTNL retirees to achieve the goal - Revision of our IDA pension with fitment benefits recommended by CPC, accepted by the government and granted to more than 60 lakh central service pensioners who are all covered by same CCS Pension Rule, 1972.

Let us all move together with one voice. We have no other choice.

CBMPA ZINDABAD. PENSIONERS' UNITY ZINDABD



I congratulate the entire membership of AIBSNLPWA throughout the country for its extra ordinary enthusiasm and active participation in every circle and district headquarters in the daylong hunger fast on 22-11-2019. Massive participation in front of Corporate Office of BSNL in Delhi by our members along with RTOWA of MTNL Delhi, Retired Ex DoT Retirees of MTNL Delhi, All India Retired BSNL Executives Welfare Association (AIRBSNLEWA), and MTNL Senior Executives Association has instilled confidence in every pensioner that our struggle will definitely yield desired results. It is heartening to see our members observing fast despite heavy rains at Chennai and some other places. In some places even 9 to 10 members observed the programme without bothering about the number. That was the spirit in following the call from CHQ. I appreciate the role of AIRBSNLEWA members in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow and other places to make this programme a grand success. Members of RTOWA, MPWA Mumbai along with our members held a massive programme in Mumbai. There are no words to express. Our sincere thanks to every one for making this one day fast programme a great success and a memorable one.

Now, BSNL/MTNL pensioners are united. United Will and United Action will definitely enable us achieve our major demands. Being the biggest organization, AIBSNLPWA has to play an important role in strengthening this unity further at all levels.

Thanks to AUAB

We are thankful to AUAB for raising the issue of Pension Revision in their strike notice. DoT has sent a proposal to Dept of Pension for delinking Pension Revision from Pay Revision. If it is approved by DoP&PW, then, DoT has to submit specific proposal about fitment benefits and take approval of all nodal ministries.

CHQ has already sent a detailed Circular No. 2 immediately after the above programme to all concerned. Same is published in this issue of Patrika also.

USE THE TECHNOLOGY

On my request many circles have started 'CEC Groups' in the similar lines of 'NEW CEC GROUP' of CHQ. Still some more are yet start it. Further, Districts also have to start District Executive Groups including District office bearers and active members. At present about 2000 members are getting the information and important news instantaneously from CHQ. If every Circle and every District Unit utilizes this technology, perhaps, more than 10,000 members will be able to receive the most reliable and important news from our CHQ instantaneously. That is my wish.

KANYAKUMARI CWC

Our CWC will meet at Kanyakumari on 13th and 14th February 2019 to review all developments and chart out a programme for strengthening the organization. Boarding and lodging will be arranged for CWC members only. All Circle Secretaries are requested to bring the following data in writing:

- 1) List of all BSNL SSAs in their Circle
- 2) List of our District Units
- 3) List of branches, if any, and the names of respective SSA Unit
- 4) Full postal address of Dist. Secretaries
- 5) Full postal address of Br. Secretaries
- Mobile Number and landline Number of Dist Secretaries, Dist.Treasurers and Branch Secretaries.
- 7) Email Id of Circle and Dist. Secretaries
- 8) Name of Website of Circles/Districts, if any
- 9) No. of Life Members of each SSA Unit
- 10) No. of annual Members of each SSA Unit
- 11) Number of total retirees in each SSA.

CHQ desires to prepare a database, for which the above details are required. Please come prepared for a purposeful discussion.

5-12-2018

P Gangadhara Rao,

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

[Regd. T 1833/09] Central Head Quarters

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Congratulations

3rd phase of programme of "Hunger Strike" on 22/11/2018 demanding pension revision from 1/1/2017 on the basis of fitment factor of 32%, recommended by 7th CPC, to BSNL/ MTNL absorbed retirees was conducted successfully and enthusiastically throughout the country. In this agitation, along with AIBSNLPWA, RTOWA, Delhi & Mumbai, AIRBSNLEWA, MTNL (DoT) Retired Association, MTNL Senior Executive Association also joined. Hundreds of pensioners participated in this programme in many cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkatta, Bengaluru, Hyderabad etc. Almost in all SSAs, whether big or small, this programme was conducted and sent the resolution to the Secretary (T). In Tamilnadu, despite rain in some districts including Chennai, fast was observed. In Delhi programme, our president could not participate since his flight was cancelled but he participated in Ernakulam; Vice-president DG and GS Gangadhara Rao participated and addressed the gathering in Delhi. Many senior leaders of pensioners' organizations like S.C.Maheswari (BPS), M.K.Bagchi, Rajendra Prasad, R.P.Sharma, G.L.Jogi, S.S.Nanda, Prahalad Rai, Kishan Singh, addressed the gathering. Leaders of working employees Unions like Dharan Raj (MTNL BMS), V.K.Tomar (MEA), A.K.Kaushik (TEAM) and Sebastian (SNEA) also spoke and announced their unconditional support to our demand. During his speech Com Maheswari explained that he presented this demand before the 7th CPC when there was a chance for oral evidence and later submitted supplementary memorandum also as requested by 7th CPC. During that oral evidence Com VAN Namboodiri opposed this demand before the 7th CPC. Our AGS Com Anupam Kaul in tandem with Coms Nanda & Mudgal did wonderful work and he gave vote of thanks to all. There was a good coverage in most of the places by press & electronic/social media. Being national capital, Delhi programme is most important. I could not find any suitable word except sincere thanks to all the organizers and participants.

New organization born

We invited leaders of pensioners' organizations who agree to the demand of pension revision with 32% fitment factor as recommended by 7th CPC from 1/1/2017. Sincere attempts were made to bring AIBDPA & BDPA also for this meeting. But it became futile at present. Let us hope that other organizations also would join in due course. On our invitation, apart from RTOWA, three more organizations viz. AIRBSNLEWA, MTNL S.E. Association & MTNL (DoT) Retired Association positively responded and we had a meeting on 21/11/2018 in Kidwai Bhawan, New Delhi under the presidentship of Com D.Gopalakrishnan. 19 leaders viz. D.Gopalakrishnan, P.Gangadhara Rao, Anupam Kaul, J.S.Dahiya, G.L.Jogi,

Munshilal, Shikher Chand Jain, G.L.Umrai, M.S.Arya (AIBSNLPWA), R.L.Dhar, M.K.Bagchi, S.S.Nanda, R.K.Mudgal, S.K.Bhatia (RTOWA Delhi), Prahalad Rai, Kishan Singh, A.K.Gupta (AIRBSNLEWA), Rajendra Prasad (MTNL Sr.Exe.Asscn.) and R.P.Sharma (MTNL (DoT) Retd. Asscn. Participated in that meeting which was held for nearly 4 hours. An umbrella organization called "Committee of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners' Associations" was formed with Com P.Gangadhara Rao as convenor. The committee consists of Coms. D.Gopala krishnan, P.Gangadhara Rao, Anupam Kaul (AIBSNLPWA), M.K.Bagchi, S.S.Nanda, R.K.Mudgal (RTOWA, Delhi), Prahalad Rai, Kishan Singh, A.K.Gupta (AIRBSNLEWA), Rajendra Prasad (MTNL Sr.Exe.Asscn.) and R.P.Sharma (MTNL DoT Retd. Asscn.). Later Com Jawahar was contacted and he gave the following six names from MTNL, Mumbai. Coms K.Jawahar, B.R.Pathak, J.S.Yadav (RTOWA, Mumbai), S.G.Pawar, S.M.Sawant, Kishore Haldankar (MTNL PWA, Mumbai). Totally 17 members are there in this committee. This committee is formed mainly for achieving the demand of pension revision with 32% fitment factor recommended by 7th CPC. The pensioners' organizations which agree with the demand can be included. This meeting finalized the press brief and letter to Secretary (T). It was also decided to approach all MPS belonging to all parties, present memorandum and seek their effective intervention; seek the support of senior ministers like Hon. Home Minister etc. All leaders contributed in the discussion and portrayed their maturity. Formation of this umbrella organization has created lot of enthusiasm and confidence among the pensioners. It is a perfect move organizationally.

Extend solidarity to AUAB

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Since DoT is adopting a negative attitude with regard to the charter of demands, presented by AUAB, particularly pay revision as recommended by 3rd PRC, they have unanimously decided to go on 'Indefinite Strike' from 3/12/2018. This serious action necessitated because the discussion and other form of agitations did not yield desired result. It is our duty to extend our solidarity support to them. CHQ requests to extend it in whatever manner possible depending upon the local situation.

Meeting with officers

We three (DG/PGR/AK) met DDG (Estt.) Shri S.K.Jain and Director (Estt.) Shri Sanjay Agarwal on 20/11/2018 and discussed for nearly two hours. In the inter-action, we were informed:-

- 1) DoT sought the opinion of DoP&PW for delinking pension revision from pay revision. In turn DoP&PW sought certain details and DoT Establishment section has prepared the reply and sent to DoT finance for vetting which is pending there.
- 2) DoT has not yet taken a final call on pay revision for serving employees.
- 3) There are three types of demands from pensioners' associations for pension revision viz. a) fitment as per 7th CPC fitment, b) as per 3rd PRC, c) sending cabinet note for pension revision and pay revision simultaneously.
- 4) If delinking is agreed to by DoP&PW, which is unlikely, then only DoT can think of the formula.

We told the officers that the letter dated 6/11/18 sent by DoT to BSNL clearly reveals the mindset of DoT on pay revision to serving employees. Though Rule 49(2) of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 was amended from 1/1/ 2016 after 7th CPC, the minimum pension for BSNL IDA pensioners was not increased to Rs.9000/-. DDG asked whether any BSNL IDA pensioners are getting less than Rs.9,000/-(pension + DR) we replied that there are thousands of family pensioners who are getting less than that.

We also told them about the history of the RM/Gr.D officials who were in the select panel were placed in LM scale (from 2550 scale to 2750 scale)

in the absence of posts in PM cadre which was decided by DoT in consultation with Departmental council of JCM and issued orders to that effect before formation of BSNL. When PM posts were available, they were posted and placed in 3050 CDA scale. These officials retired in 2016, 2017. Now at the time of their retirement, CCA, Tamilnadu reduced their LPD saying that the trained RM/ Gr.D officials were placed in LM scale temporarily and hence that cannot be taken into account. Pension was fixed for all these people at reduced rate than 50% of their actual LPD. We also told them that we have already written a letter in this regard few months back. But they wanted another letter again. This was discussed with Member (F) also on 22/11/2018. After hearing the case patiently she asked us to send a letter to her. She would call for a report from CCA, TN and inter-act with establishment section of DoT also and then take a decision.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR (HR)

We met Director (HR) Smt. Sujata Ray in BSNL Corporate office on 20/11/2018 for about 30 minutes. One GM and another OSD were also with her. We raised the issue of non-payment of MRS to the retirees due to want of funds. She explained the financial position of BSNL and told that all of you are well aware of the situation. She expressed her anguish that no one including DoT is helping BSNL. She suggested that pensioners can opt for CGHS and we told

her that it is available only in 26 cities in the country. She told that atleast the pensioners in these cities get the benefit. Then we told her that the pensioner had to pay a huge amount as contribution and if BSNL makes that one lump-sum payment directly to CGHS instead of asking the pensioner to pay first and get reimbursement from BSNL later, the pensioners may be inclined to move. She asked us to give a letter as a proposal which can be considered by the corporate office. She informed that corporate office is thinking of some insurance policies for health and some initiative is taken. If any proposal is given by our association then it can also be considered she said. She also informed that they are expecting some funds in the 1st week of December 18 and if all is well funds may be allotted to circles by 2nd week. But payment priority will be in the order of 1) for hospitals 2) Indoor treatment to retirees 3) Indoor treatment to serving employees 4) Without voucher for retirees. We told her about the case of Shri Sethuraman (AGM, STR, Chennai) case of deduction of incometax for leave encashment. She asked Shri V.K.Sinha, OSD to note down the case and take necessary action. He asked us to send him a mail about the details.

We also told her that in some areas, rent-free residential telephone connections were withdrawn which were working on CDMA technology. As an alternative, the pensioners can be given a BSNL sim card to use them for certain amount. We also told her that we have already given a letter in this regard. She asked the GM to consider it and we gave a copy of our previous letter to him.

Member (F) Smt. Anuradha Mitra gave us time at 1600 hrs on 22/11/18 and we met her for about 30 minutes. DDG (Accts.) Madam Lynda was also with her. We discussed about the 'Direct payment by CCAs'. On this issue, we were informed the following:-

- 1) Direct payment for new pensioners from Dec 2018
- 2) For existing pensioners from Apr 2019
- 3) Post offices are not linked to the new software for the present
- 4) Banks have agreed to accept the life certificate and the payment of commission for this service is under discussion
- 5) Every pensioner shall be given a log-in-id
- 6) Interaction with pensioners, particularly with pensioners' associations shall be ensured by CCAs. It will be held soon which may help to allay the apprehensions of the pensioners.
- 7) She assured that all the problems of pensioners shall be addressed
- 8) Form 16 can be taken digitally or CCAs shall give

Regarding 'pension revision' she told that "you should not try to take the best every time (i.e. whichever formula that is more beneficial for pension revision) and there should be a single formula and it can't be changed every time". We explained that we raised the demand of fitment factor recommended by 7th CPC be made applicable to BSNL IDA pensioners also as soon as the Govt. announced the appointment of 7th CPC in September 2013 and at that point of time nobody knows about the outcome of 7th CPC or 3rd PRC. Consciously we raised the demand with a vision that it would be a permanent solution. We also told her that we are consistent with our demand from 2013 onwards. We informed her that a reply to DoP&PW is prepared by Establishment section of DoT and sent to DoT finance for vetting which was told to us by DDG (Estt.). Then she told that she was not here for a week and it would have gone to Advisor and 'vetting' would be done soon if it is sent by establishment section. If DoP&PW agrees to delinking and if a proper proposal comes to DoT finance, that would be considered by us, she told. Ultimately DoP&PW and DoE have

to agree and as far as DoT finance is concerned, 'it will go with the flow' she said.

We along with Coms. G.L.Jogi and S.S.Nanda met Member (S) Shri Ravi Kant. Member (S) was really busy since he was looking after the post of Member (T) also. He told that he can meet us only for 5 minutes but we had meeting for more than 15 minutes from 6.05 pm on 22nd. When we raised the issue of pension revision he told that he got brief from DDG (Estt.). When we questioned about the real bottle-neck, he told about the likelyhood of anomaly. We told that suitable solution can be found to address that problem. We explained the justification for the demand in brief. He patiently heard our views and said that he would study the issue from that angle and asked to meet him after a week. We told the leaders in Delhi should meet him after a week and pursue further.

Comrades.

In the background of these developments, our CWC which is going to meet in Kanyakumari in February 2019 has to seriously discuss and take appropriate decisions with regard to Pension Revision and MRS.

We once again request you all to observe 'Pensioners' Day' in 17th December 2018 by conducting meetings and explain the above development to the members.

With greetings Yours fraternally,

> (P. Gangadhara Rao) General Secretary.

Circular No. 2 dated 26-11-2018



COMMITTEE OF BSNL/MTNL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS

FIRST CIRCULAR Dt. 21/11/2018

Dear comrades,

Today the following pensioners' associations met under the chairmanship of Com D.Gopalakrishnan, VP, CHQ, AIBSNLPWA in Kidwai Bhavan, New Delhi.

- 1. All India BSNL Pensioners' Welfare Association represented Coms D. Gopalakrishnan, P.Gangadhara Rao, Anupam Kaul & J.S.Dahiya.
- 2. Retired Telecom Officers Association represented by Coms M.K. Bagchi, S.S.Nanda, R.K.Moudgil
- 3. All India Retired BSNL Executive Welfare Association represented by Coms Prahalad Rai, Kishan Singh & Amit Kumar Gupta
- 4. MTNL (Ex DoT) Retired Association represented by Com R.P.Sharma
- 5. MTNL Senior Executive Association represented by Com Rajendra Prasad.

Senior Coms G.L.Jogi, R.L.Kapoor, Munshilal and some others also participated.

Com Anupam Kaul welcomed all. All participated in the discussion which was useful and purposeful. The meeting unanimously finalized the press brief and joint letter to be sent to Secretary (Telecom).

The name of the committee was finalized. Com P.Gangadhara Rao shall be the convenor of the committee. Members of

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the committee shall be D. Gopalakrishnan, Anupam Kaul, M.K.Bagchi, S.S.Nanda, R.K.Mudgal, Prahalad Rai, Kishan Singh, Amit Kumar Gupta, Rajendra Prasad and R.P.Sharma. The convenor shall contact leaders of MTNL, Mumbai and include their representatives in the committee.

The Committee decided to include the pensioners' organisation which are in agreement with our proposal on pension revision.

The committee decided to approach all MPS across all political parties and seek their support for achieving our demand. Special efforts shall be made to seek the support of Hon. Home Minister Shri Rajnathsinghji. This shall be our next course of action. The committee shall prepare a common memorandum to be presented to MPs and circulate to all.

This is a good beginning. Let us unite and march forward.

With greetings

P.Gangadhara Rao S.S.Nanda GS, AIBSNLPWA GS, RTOWA

Kishan Singh Rajendra Prasad GS, AIRBSNLEWA M.S.E.A. DELHI

R.P.Sharma (MTNL (Ex DoT) Retired Assn.

J S YADAV, S M SAWANT, RTOWA, MUMBAI MPWA, MUMBAI

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2019

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PENSION REVISION OF BSNL/MTNL RETIREES

DoP&PW OM dated 5/7/1989 states "The Govt. servants who opt to be governed by the pensionary benefits available under the Government, shall at the time of their retirement, be entitled to pension etc., in accordance with the Central Govt. rules in force at that time." Para 7 of that OM states "these orders will also be applicable to those Govt. servants who would be absorbed in the MTNL, VSNL, NAAI etc.

DoP&PW OM dated 1/9/2008 & 3/10/2008 says "these orders apply to all the pensioners/family pensioners who were drawing pension/FP on 1/1/2006 under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972".

DoT endorsed DoP&PW OM dated 3/10/2008 and 14/10/2008 vide its order dated 23/10/2008. After acceptance of 7th CPC recommendations by the Govt, similar order was issued by DoP&PW vide its OM dated 4/8/2016.

BSNL/MTNL retirees are also covered under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 on par with Central Govt. retirees. They are paid pension by Government of India, not by PSUs. Now, it is 100% responsibility of the Government to pay pension to them. BSNL/MTNL has neither any responsibility to pay their pension nor any authority to revise their pension. Hence, they should be treated as Central Govt pensioners.

Revised Rules of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 consequent to 6th CPC recommendations like Gratuity ceiling, Enhanced family pension, application of new commutation table, age-related additional pension, Minimum/Maximum pension etc. were made applicable to BSNL IDA pensioners that too after getting clarification from DoP&PW.

For a clarification sought by DoT vide its ID No.40-31/2008-Pen(T) dated 18/3/2009 regarding applicability of Revised Rules w.e.f.1/1/2006 with regard to 6th CPC to ex-DoT employees absorbed in BSNL and DoP&PW clarified vide its Desk 'D' dated 27/ 4/2009 that it is applicable. In that clarification DoP&PW stated "BSNL is the only PSU that has been granted a special dispensation under sub-rule 21 of Rule 37-A to the effect that pensionary benefits including FP to the absorbed employees of BSNL is paid by the Govt".

DoT vide its order dated 23/6/2011 endorsed DoP&PW OM dated 2/9/2008 and 3/10/2008 and stated that these are applicable to BSNL IDA pensioners also.

Absorbed employees rendered most part of their service in Department of Telecom.

Explanation under sub-rule 8 of Rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 clearly states that "it shall be calculated in the same way as calculated in the case of a C.G. servant, retiring or dying on the same day".

DoT OM No.40-13/2002-PEN (T) dated 15/1/2003 while clarifying

under doubt No.4 clearly states that the minimum & maximum shall continue as existing in CCS (Pension) Rules unless specifically approved otherwise by the Govt.

Para 3 of DoT letter dated 12/8/2009 stated that "the present method of calculation of minimum pension which is 50% of the minimum of the lowest pay scale shall continue". It is clear that the minimum pension for BSNL IDA pensioners is Rs.3500/- since the minimum pay in Central Govt. is Rs.7000/- from 1/1/2006. The minimum pay in BSNL was revised as Rs.7760/- from 1/1/2007 only by an order dated 7/5/2010 issued by BSNL Corporate office.

DoT issued OM dated 15/3/2011 vide F.No.40-17/2008-Pen (T)-Vol.III for revision of pension of pre-2007 pensioners/family pensioners of BSNL. Para 4.4 of that OM states "the lower and upper ceiling on pension/family pension shall be Rs.3500/- and Rs.45,000/- respectively". It is apparently clear that the minimum/maximum pension relates to C.G. pay and not BSNL pay.

NO PRC FORMULA FOR PENSIONERS

PRC has nothing to do with pension revision. Pension revision does not find a place in the terms of reference of any PRC. So, the third PRC also has not suggested any formula for pension revision. There is no use of asking pension revision with PRC formula, which does not exist at all.

Pay revision (not Pension revision) of Executives is decided on the basis of PRC recommendations. Pay revision of non-executives is determined on the basis of bilateral agreement between Management and recognized unions and BSNL/MTNL has no say with regard to pension because GOI is paying the pension.

In reply to a RTI application, BSNL corporate office vide its letter dated 15/11/2016 stated that as on 1/11/2016 there were 28,791 Executives and 1,36,791 Non-executives in BSNL. All non-executives would retire by 2026 and 24,117 out of 28,791 executives would retire by 2027.

Gratuity is being paid in accordance with CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 and not according to Payment of Gratuity Act 1972.

Retirement benefits in other CPSEs are as per DPE guidelines but for BSNL retirees it is as per CCS (Pension) Rules 1972.

In the case of BSNL retirees, full pension liability lies on Government of India whereas for other CPSE retirees GoI does not provide any budgetary support.

OUR EFFORTS

Kindly read the article given in July-August 2018 issue of Pensioners Patrika to know continuous efforts made by AIBSNLPWA to realize the demand. We do not want to repeat those details here.

WHY CPC FITMENT AND NOT PRC?

Pay Revision Committee (PRC) has not suggested any revision of

pension. There is no PRC formula for pensioners. Then what is the fun of asking pension revision with PRC formula? Some people asked that. It confused some officers in DoT who wanted to deny benefits to BSNL/MTNL pensioners. BSNL/MTNL Pensioners request these leaders/organizations to desist from raising such confusing demands. At the same time, Pension Revision has been an item for Pay Commissions to consider, and from 1986 onwards all CPCs suggested some formula for Pension revision. In future also the CPCs may suggest some formula for pension revision. Hence we demand our pension revision with fitment benefits suggested by CPC.

ANOMALIES

Some officers in DoT talk about "probable anomaly" if pension is revised without pay revision. Every time a Pay revision took place in the past there was some kind of anomaly. Anomaly committees were appointed to sort out the issues in the past. There was an anomaly in pension when BSNL was formed in 2000 and CDA pay was converted in to IDA Pay in 2002 for the BSNL absorbees. DoT had given a written assurance that such anomalies/aberrations would be resolved. Even after 16 years DoT has not solved it. CAT principal bench had given on order on 16th December 2016 to resolve the anomaly. Same officers in the DOT have not yet implemented the court order. Then why they are talking about probable anomaly in future? It is only to deny justice to BSNL/MTNL retirees.

PERMANENT SOLUTION

We want a decision by the Government not for once, but for entire future. When the pension of central government pensioners is revised in future our pension should also be revised with same fitment benefit.

TASK

Comrades,

Though we have very valid and sound arguments for pension revision from 1/1/2017 on the basis of fitment factor recommended by 7th CPC and implemented by the Govt. for CDA pensioners, everyone should understand that it is a new concept and new path. It requires a clear policy decision by political bosses and then only DoT officers would act. We are conscious of this reality. Our demand is simple. Existing basic pension as on 1/1/2017 + IDR(119.5%) + 32% of basic pension. If this is accepted, there will be an increase of 14.58% in total pension. It may cost Rs.1,200/crores per annum approximately which is not a big burden to the Government keeping the interest of senior citizens in mind. But one big hurdle is that some pensioners organizations, not only do not support this demand which would be a permanent solution and benefit not only the existing pensioners but also the future pensioners, are working at cross purposes, willfully indulges in wrong propaganda that we are asking for CDA pension from 2000 onwards etc. Our appeal for united approach on common demand like this is simply ignored by those organizations. The members of those organizations should understand the spoiling game played by those leaders.

We shall get pension revision. We are fully justified. We are central Govt. pensioners; techinically and legally.

CHQ LETTER DATED 22-10-2018 TO MINISTER, TELECOM COMMISSION etc ON DIRECT PAYMENT OF PENSION BY CCA OFFICES.

We understand that DoT is contemplating to introduce direct payment of pension by CCAs instead of through the agencies like banks/post offices. Though we are not averse to the new concept, it needs transparency, exchange of views with stake-holders, proper infrastructure, proper training, posting of required staff in O/o PCCA/CCA to handle the additional quantum of work, addressing the problems likely to be faced by the pensioners.

- 2. Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) prepared a 12 page "Concept paper" on "centralized pension disbursement system" before introducing the new system. A news item appeared in 'Economic Times' in July 2018 in this regard. According to that 'concept paper' there are 24.16 lakh defence pensioners for whom Rs.51,000 crores are disbursed per year. 75% of pensioners are getting their pension through banks and 95% of the amount is disbursed by the banks. Ministry of Defence is paying Rs.960/- per annum per transaction to banks which works out to Rs. 180 crore p.a. At present the defence pensioners are getting pension through 29 banks, 63 DPDOs, post offices and state treasuries. The paper mentions that it will be implemented in 3 phases -first, new pensioners – 2nd DPDO pensioners. shifting of files and indexing – 3rd existing bank pensioners.
- 3. The concept paper mentions about the issues viz. 1) lack of agency which could provide the pensioners a forum for personal interaction/contact at their nearest place; 2) identification at the time of first payment; 3) submission of annual life certificate in November; 4) submission of death certificate in case of death of pensioner and sanction of FP. DoT/BSNL pensioners also would face supply of form 16 by the PDAs in addition to the above mentioned four issues.

- 4. DoT/BSNL pensioners are not aware about the resolution to the above issues. Earlier, we were told that it will be implemented in phases, first to the new pensioners, next to existing pensioners in some circles drawing pension through banks. During the nation-wide pension adalat held recently also, it was informed that no target date is fixed and all the issues likely to be faced would be taken care of before implementation. But, on the contrary now we understand that DoT is pushing through the new system wholehog fixing a target date. To have hassle-free new system we would like to submit the following suggessions:-
- a) A concept paper needs to be circulated to the pensioners particularly the organizations representing DoT/BSNL pensioners who are stake-holders and it should address the problems likely to be faced by the pensioners.
- b) It should be optional.
- c) Creation of necessary infrastructure needs to be explained.
- d) Strengthening with required staff in O/o PCCAs/CCAs.
- e) Proper and adequate training to the staff handling the new software.
- f) A special programme has to be conducted by O/o PCCA/CCAs to educate the pensioners, particularly the representatives of pensioners' organizations about the proposed new system.

We are of the considered opinion that any new system can be successful only with the willing cooperation of stake-holders. We hope that DoT would take our suggessions seriously and take necessary action before implementing it.

May we earnestly request you Sir, to instruct the Department of Telecom suitabley in the matter.

TAMILNADU CIRCLE CONFERENCE

Com. K.Muthiyalu, Outgoing Circle Secretary

Tamil Nadu circle conference was held at Trichy on 7th and 8th August under the Presidentship of Com. V.Rama Rao, Circle President.

National Flag was hoisted by Com V.P.Kathaperumal President of Trichy SSA and AIBSNLPWA Flag was hoisted by Com. V.Rama Rao, Circle President. Com. Deenadayalan, Asstt. Circle Secretary read homage message to Martyors and 2 minutes silence was observed.

The Conference was inaugurated by Com. G.Natarajan, General Secretary. The reception Committee Chairman Dr. Senthil Kumar Nallasamy welcome speech was received with appalause by the delegates.

Com. Rama Rao while delivering his Presidential speech explained the formation of first circle association at Cuddalore in the year 2008 till the Trichy Conference. Then:

Com. P.S. Ramankutty All India President Com. D.Gopalakrishnan All India Vice President Com. T.S.Vihoban, All India Treasurer Com. S.Arunachalam, Asstt. General Secretary Com. S.Palaniappan, All India VP of NFTE Com. S.Thangaraj, Circle Secretary AIBSNL PWA Chennai Telephones addressed the inaugural session.

Shri V.K.Sanjeevi, PGM, Southern Telecom Projects Chennai , Shri D.Thamizhmani, GM, STR Chennai greeted the conference from Administration. Donors for the conference M/s Arunachalagani, J.Vasantharajan, S.Palanisamy also greeted the conference.

All the CHQ office bearers and officers were presented with shawl and memento.

Com. T.Selvarj, Secretary Reception Committee proposed vote of thanks.

Subjects committee was held on 7th afternoon. On 7th evening Dr. NallasamySenthilkumar, a renowned Heart Specialist made a " *HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HEART*". The Doctor also answered for number of questions from delegates on health.

Circle Secretary, Com Muthiyalu presented the annual report and explained about the settlement of problems especialy 78.2% IDA merger for 18000 pensioners. He also proudly said the TN was touching 10000 member ship and continued to be 1st position in All India. Treasurer Com. Goushbasha submitted the accounts. The annual report and accounts were passed after answering some queries.

Reception Committee President, Secretary, Treasurer respectively Com. V.P.Kathaperumal, T.Selvaraj, Sudarsanam, Com. R.Venkatachalam, Circle Asstt. Secy., and Com. R.Armugham were honored by the circle union.

On the basis of membership first 3 SSA secretaries Maduai, Tirunelveli and STR District secretaries were felicitated by the Conference. Com. S.Narasimhan and Com. Mohan were honored for their special efforts to maintain the website.

Resolutions were passed: At about 9PM the sad news of Dr. KalingairKarunanidhi's death message came. The conference immediately passed a condolence resolution and paid homage.

Circle secretary appreciated the Reception Committee office bearers and the team of volunteers.

The election of office bearers were held unanimously. The following were elected as Office Bearers:

President:

Com. V.Rama Rao, Chennai

Vice Presidents:

Com. G.R.Dharmajan, Maduari Com. T. Vediappan, Dharmapuri Com. C.Palanisami, Coimbatore Com. V.P.Kattuperumal, Trichy Com. V.Chandramohan, Cuddalore Com. S.Sridharan, Chennai STR Com. D.Victorraj, Chennai STR Com. S.Jayachandran, Karaikudi

Circle Secretary:

Com. R. Venkatachalam

Asstt. Circle Secretaries:

Com. S.Sampathkumar, Chennai Tfc. Com. S.Sammanasu, Tirunelveli Com. N.Ambikapathy, Tuticorin Com. Deenadayalan Chennai Com. S.Sundarakrishnan, Chennai Com. K.Ramani, Salem West Com. S.Suriyan, Maduarai

Com. B.Arunachalam, Coimbatore Com. V.Pattabiraman, Salem East

Treasurer:

Com. S.Kalidoss, Chennai

Asstt. Treasrers:

Com. T.Murugesan, Thanjavur Com. MangaiSoundarrajan, Chennai

Org. Secretaries :

Com. V.S.Muthukumaran, Vellore Com. E.Kanagaraj, Tirunelveli Com. M.M.Vairamanai, Viridhunagar

Com. B.David, Nagercoil

Com. N.Dhanapal, Kumbakonam Com. Balasubramanaian, Madurai Com. Francis Xavior, Thanjavur Com. Sambasivam, Pondicherry

Special Invitee:

Com. R.Arumugham, Ariyalur

Com. R Venkatachalam thanked the circle union and specially Com. K. Muthiyalu for assistanting in mobilizing the fund.

On 8th Morning available delegated assembled and discussed the issues of Medical allowance, family pension and other problems.



THE SPOLING GAME

BSNLEU CEC met at Ghaziabad on 22-23 October 2018 and adopted a resolution on Pension revision. The resolution says:

"As regards the pension revision of the absorbed BSNL retirees, the DoT has always maintained that it is linked with the wage revision of BSNL

employees, which is totally unacceptable. <u>At par with the pension revision given to the other pensioners</u> covered under CCS Pension Rule 1972, the absorbed BSNL pensioners should also be given pension revision immediately and without waiting for the wage revision of the serving employees to get completed....." [From Wenbsite of BSNLEU on 26-10-2018].

BUT AIBDPA DEMANDS PENSION REVISION BASED ON PRC RECOMMENDATION.

IS THERE ANY PRC FORMULA FOR PENSION REVISION? NOTHING !!!!

LIFE MEMBERS

[Contd. from previous Issue]

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| K. S. Ramaswamy | R. Jayalakshmi |
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| S. Virudhambal | Mythili Raghay |
| V. Kannan | V. Meenambal |
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| R. Ganesan | G. Arumugam |
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| C N | M. Eaglelei |

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UNITED WE MARCH AHEAD

COMRADES GANGADHARA RAO, DG, J S DAHYA, R K MUDGAL, G L JOGI, M K BAGCHI, S S NANDA, ANUPAM KAUL, R P SHARMA, RAJENDRA PRASAD AND OTHERS IN NEW DELHI ON 21-11-2018 TO LAUNCH THE NEW UNITED FORUM OF COMMITTEE OF BSNL/MTNL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATIONS.



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