

WE ARE RIGHT ON OUR DEMAND

Shri S.Rathnasubramanian, Retd. DGM, Joint Secretary, CHQ, AIBSNLREA has written 8 page article under the caption "Pension-Revision-Confusion". The idea of that article is to ridicule our demand of "Application of fitment formula recommended by 7th CPC to BSNL IDA pensioners also". We do not know how many people would have patience to read such a big article. We are not interested in polemics but we have to put record straight. He is master of coining slogans. Sometime back he wrote about 10/6/2013 DoT order on 78.2 under the caption "Be Rational – It is not Notional".

We concede that we are not as knowledgeable as SRS. We would like to ask him "why he has not shared his intellectual property" with us in the interest of BSNL IDA pensioners when we prepared the memorandum for the 7th CPC and sent to all pensioners' organizations including ABSNLREA for their comments/opinion before submission to 7th CPC". Why he took more than 2 years to react? Another question we would like to ask is "Whether their Association leaders met the concerned authorities and discussed these issues across the table"? He is very much aware that mere writing letters would not be sufficient to convince. We met the concerned authorities including chairman, 7th CPC, who commented that there is a "prima-facie" in our demand but unfortunately DoT did not offer its comments in-time. We could convince, through discussion, Shri Garg, Secretary, Telecom, Shri Harjeetsingh, Director, DoP&PW and Shri R.K.Chaturvedi, (IAS, JS, DoE), Chairman, 'Implementation Cell'. Most of the pensioners are aware that which organization is mainly responsible to achieve pension revision to pre-2007 pensioners.

Sub-rule 4 of Rule 37-A of CCS Pension Rules is not relevant but only Sub-rule 8, 9, 10, 20, 21 & 22 are relevant to our pension. No clause of CCS (pension) Rules 1972 mention about pension revision to either CG pensioners or BSNL IDA pensioners. But the terms of reference of CPC covers pension revision and not the terms of reference of any PRC. He says the fitment for the pension has to be the same as given to the serving BSNL employees. Is there any rule for identical fitment formula for both Executives & Non-executives in CPSEs? For example, in 2007 in BHEL, Executives got less compared to Non-executives. Even in BSNL, the promotion policy for Executives & Non-executives are different. We agree with his contention that revision of pension should be only in IDA pattern. It is a settled law. In accordance with Apex court judgement dated 3/5/1990 & 28/8/1991, only IDA pattern should be in CPSEs w.e.f.1/1/1989 and sub-rule 10 of Rule 37-A ensures it. According to him, the pension revision is neither in the domain of CPC nor PRC. Then in which domain it is? We have made an earnest effort to apply the fitment formula of CPC, so that we are laying a new track for future pensioners also. Instead of strengthening the demand, these intellectuals work at cross-purpose which is not in the interest of our pensioners. The stamp in our PPO of "BSNL Pensioner" is to distinguish between CDA pensioners of DoT and IDA pensioners and it is not at all a valid point.

In 15/3/2011 order, fitment formula for pension revision to pre-2007 retirees mentions only existing pension + 68.8% IDA + 30% weightage and there is no reference about the pay. The same order states that the minimum pension is Rs.3500/- which is 50% of CDA minimum pay and not IDA minimum pay. According to DoT O.M. dated 15/1/2003 "the ceiling minimum and maximum pension as existing in CCS (Pension) Rules shall continue unless specifically approved otherwise by the Govt". We would like to inform Shri SRS that TNEB (now TANGEDCO etc) is a statutory corporation under Tamilnadu Govt. and the pay revision for employees is once in 5 years and pension revision for retirees is once in 10 years and the benefits are on the lines of CPC.

He argues that even if 15% increase is given in BSNL, that would be more than 7th CPC benefit. The real increase is 14.22% as mentioned by him as per 7th CPC is correct but it is as on 1/1/2016 but not on 1/1/2017. Two more instalments of CDA would be given in between. However it is not the question of little more or little less benefit but we would like to lay a new track and we need not go through the exercise of preparing Cabinet Note and seek approval from the Cabinet. Everyone knows the delay involved in getting it for pre-2007 and now for 78.2. There are more than 50 lakh CG pensioners and if nearly 1.75 lakh BSNL IDA retirees join the mainstream, then it would strengthen the bargaining capacity though they can't serve strike notice. Our appeal is that "If you can't do service to pensioners at least avoid the spoiling game.