

**AIBSNLPWA  
E Journal 13**

**August 2021**

# **PENSIONERS' PATRIKA**

**FOUNDERS IN TAMBARAM  
CONFERENCE IN 2009**



**12 YEARS OF AIBSNLPWA  
20, AUGUST 2009 - 20, AUGUST 2021**



## GS WRITES

Dear Comrades,

On the eve of the 12th anniversary of formation of our mighty organization, AIBSNLPWA, I greet you all. We have grown during the last 12 years. Today we are the biggest organization of Telecom Pensioners in India, spread over 23 Circles and more than 250 Telecom districts. We crossed many a hurdles. We settled some major issues like pension revision, annulment of 60:40 stipulation etc. Still there are issues to be settled. Nothing was given to us as grace; we achieved everything through struggles. Unity is our strength. Dedication is our investment.

Let us take a solemn pledge on this occasion that we shall march forward further with determination to achieve our goals. There will be many hurdles on our way. But, no hurdle can deter us from our path. No obstacle can break our spirit.

The whole world is passing through a crisis, unprecedented in the history of mankind. A tiny virus has changed the world; changed the history. Every creative activity is locked up. Economy of many Nations is badly affected. What World Wars could not do is done by virus. For 15 months we could not meet physically. Only the virtual meetings are possible at many places. We should do it. We must use the new technology in this extra ordinary situation.

I call upon our SSA units to hold physical meetings, wherever possible, on 20th August 2021 and observe the anniversary in a befitting manner. At other places, where physical meetings are not possible, hold online meetings and explain the present position of various issues and demands, using the materials provided through this Ejournal. In our Whatsapp Groups we will post about 25 informative Voice Clips by our senior Vice President Com. Gopalakrishnan on the history of our Association, its activities and various problems. Its Hindi version being prepared by Com. Anupam Kaul, AGS will also be posted. August 20 this year happens to be holiday in some Circles. There, our comrades can do it on some other convenient day. Some Circles have whatsapp groups. Others also should form it at the earliest. District Secretaries also can form whatsapp groups. In present situation it is the cheapest and convenient method to communicate with our members. CHQ is posting all latest information on the WA Groups we have formed. If Circle/District Secretaries forward such postings in their WA groups, we can directly communicate with more than 30000 members instantly.

These bad days will go. We hope we will be able to sit together soon in CWC and AIC.

With Greetings

  
P. Gangadhara Rao, ..  
General Secretary.

## **EDITORIAL**

# **WE SHALL MOVE TO THE PODIUM**

*As the National President of AIBSNLPWA, I type these lines with profound pride, on the eve of 12th anniversary of formation of our organization.*

*In 2009, we sowed the seed on the fertile land of unity of mind of BSNL retirees. The seed grew underground, pushed its way through the earth soon to find the light of world above.*

*We started with Zero Membership on 20th August 2009. Today we have more than 60000 life members. This phenomenal growth is a testament to the desire and determination of our leaders at the base level, the branches. But for the lockdown situation, where physical meetings and collection of membership subscription are not possible, the membership would have crossed ONE LAKH by this time. It is the incredible achievement of our activists at the base level. The growth is commendable in Tamilnadu, Chennai TD, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka Circles.*

*A strong house can be built on solid foundation. Our unity, dedication and determination together is the foundation. We took every challenge as opportunity. In short span of 12 years we have emerged as the No. 1 organization of Pensioners in Telecom. Every enthusiastic athlete trains his/her entire life to stand on the top of that podium in Olympic ground holding the gold medal.*

***We started with a dream, pursued with desire and achieved with determination the spectacular position .***

*Before August 2009 pay revision and pension revision had taken place in central services. Pay revision had taken place in BSNL. But pension was not revised. There was none to plead for BSNL retirees then; none even to weep for us. Today there are many to talk about BSNL retirees; many to claim credit for the gains we achieved. That is the sea change we made in the scenario. We are proud of it.*

*Still there is lot of way ahead for us to cover. We shall do it, hurdles and obstacles come what may. We shall finish the race. We shall move to the podium.*

*I congratulate our leaders at all levels on this happy occasion.*

**P S Ramankutty**

## CIRCLEWISE LIFE MEMBERSHIP FROM 2011-12 TO 2021-22

YEAR	2011-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	TOTAL
<b>AP</b>	<b>3763</b>	1028	1679	765	1330	1569	75	<b>9014</b>
ASSAM	175	4	55	102	46	87		469
BIHAR	364	95	135	76	102	76		848
CHHATTISGARH	189	20	23	24	13	25		294
<b>CHTD</b>	<b>1834</b>	413	741	790	719	361		<b>4858</b>
DELHI	76	6	69	9	0			160
GUJARAT	120	62	512	99	157	0		950
JHARKHAND	230	59	94	41	27	0	86	537
HARYANA	52	3	130	62	28	41	22	338
HP	0	0	0	0	81	5	3	89
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	<b>2318</b>	564	990	707	1064	2226		<b>7869</b>
KERALA	2823	408	743	462	648	539	75	5698
MP	658	215	357	121	140	472	10	1973
MAHARASHTRA	636	236	176	110	140	88		1386
ORISSA	717	272	232	86	136	179		1622
PUNJAB	378	167	649	539	140	725	20	2618
RAJASTHAN	174	60	164	203	81	0		682
<b>TELANGANA</b>	<b>0</b>	12	992	649	531	885	127	<b>4391</b>
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	<b>4226</b>	1593	2341	1537	1591	2652	117	<b>14057</b>
UP EAST	144	199	320	113	31	50		857
UP WEST	235	43	561	292	69	110		1310
WB	99	12	63	56	16	0		246
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19211</b>	<b>5471</b>	<b>11026</b>	<b>6843</b>	<b>7090</b>	<b>10090</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>60266</b>

**Above data is as on 31st July 2021,  
based on CHQ quota received .**

# **STAFF SIDE DEMAND ON CDA**

Letter No. NC-JCM-2021/CS/PM/(DA), July 17, 2021

To

The Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, & Chairman, National Council JCM

Sub:- Payment of Dearness Allowance/ DR w.e.f. 01/01/2020, 01/07/2020 and 01/01/2021 with arrears.

Dear Sir,

At the outset we are grateful to the Government that after considering the repeated representations made by the Staff Side including in the National Council – JCM meeting held under your Chairmanship on 26/06/2021, the Government have now decided to release the DA/DR to Central Government Employees and Pensioners w.e.f 1/07/2021. Accordingly the DA / DR has been increased to 28% representing an increase of 11% over the existing rate of 17% of Basic Pay / Pension. The increased DA / DR is actually due from 1/1/2020, 01/07/2020 and 01/01/2021, however it is regretted to note that the Government has decided that the rate of Dearness allowance / DR for the period 01/01/2020 to 30/06/2021 shall remain at 17%. This is not at all justified, since the DA/DR is a part of the wages of the employees and pension of the pensioners and any arbitrary recovery of the same will amount to illegal recovery of wages and pension. It is also pertinent to mention here that the employees who retired from service between 01/01/2020 and 30/06/2021 are subjected to huge financial loss in their gratuity and leave encashment for no fault of theirs since they are all denied the benefit of DA due to them. In the last National Council – JCM meeting the Staff Side demanded for payment of the three installments of DA / DR due to the employees/ Pensioners with arrears w.e.f 01/01/2020. The staff Side also proposed that the Staff Side is prepared to discuss about the mode of arrears payment.

We would like invite to your kind attention to the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India delivered on 08/02/2021 in Civil Appeal No. 399 of 2021 (Arising out of SLP (C) No. 12553 of 2020. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has decided that salaries and pension constitutes the right full entitlement of the employees and are payable in accordance with law. The relevant portion of the Judgment is given below for your kind ready reference

[Contd. In next page]

***“14. The direction for the payment of the deferred portions of the salaries and pensions is unexceptionable. Salaries are due to the employees of the State for services rendered. Salaries in other words constitute the rightful entitlement of the employees and are payable in accordance with law. Likewise, it is well settled that the payment of pension is for years of past service rendered by the pensioners to the State. Pensions are hence a matter of a rightful entitlement recognized by the applicable rules and regulations which govern the service of the employees of the State. The State Government has complied with the directions of this Court for the payment of the outstanding dues in two tranches. Insofar as the interest is concerned, we are of the view that the rate of 12% per annum which has been fixed by the High Court should be suitably scaled down. While learned counsel for the respondents submits that the award of interest was on account of the action of the Government which was contrary to law, we are of the view that the payment of interest cannot be used as a means to penalize the State Government. There can be no gainsaying the fact that the Government which has delayed the payment of salaries and pensions should be directed to pay interest at an appropriate rate.***

***15. We accordingly order and direct that in substitution of the interest rate of 12% per annum which has been awarded by the High Court, the Government of Andhra Pradesh shall pay simple interest computed at the rate of 6% per annum on account of deferred salaries and pensions within a period of thirty days from today. This direction shall, however in the facts and circumstances, be confined to categories 3, 4, 5 and 6 of GOMs No 26 dated 31 March 2020. We clarify that interest shall be paid to all pensioners of the State at the rate of 6% per annum on the deferred portion, for the period of delay. Having regard to the prevailing bank interest, the rate of 12% per annum which has been fixed by the High Court, would need to be and is accordingly reduced.”***

In view of the above judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court the law is now established that Government cannot permanently freeze the salary and the pension. Therefore the frozen three installment of DA/DR due from 01/01/2020, 01/07/2020 and 01/01/2021 i.e. additional 4% from 01/01/2020, 7% from 01/07/2021 and 11% from 01/01/2021 may please be paid as arrears to the employees and pensioners. You will also appreciate that the arrears amount will increase the cash inflow in the market which will ultimately benefit the economy of the country. A copy of the Hon’ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 08/02/2021 is enclosed with this letter for your kind perusal.

**Shiv Gopal Mishra  
Secretary Staff Side**

# **DOE ON CDA FROM JULY 2021**

**No. 1/1/2020-E-II (B)**

**Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure**

**Dated the 20th July, 2021**

## **OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Revised rates of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees w.e.f. 01.07.2021.**

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Ministry's Office Memorandum No. 1/1/2020-E-II (B) dated 23.04.2020 vide which instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021, were frozen and to say that the President is pleased to decide that the Dearness Allowance payable to Central Government employees shall be enhanced from the existing rate of 17% to 28% of the basic pay with effect from 1st July, 2021. The increase subsumes the additional instalments arising on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021. The rate of Dearness Allowance for the period from 01.07.2020 till 30.06.2021 shall remain at 17%.

2. The term 'basic pay' in the revised pay structure means the pay drawn in the prescribed Level in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC recommendations accepted by the Government, but does not include any other type of pay like special pay, etc.

3. The Dearness Allowance will continue to be a distinct element of remuneration and will not be treated as pay within the ambit of FR 9(21).

4. The payment on account of Dearness Allowance involving fractions of 50 paise and above may be rounded to the next higher rupee and the fractions of less than 50 paise may be ignored.

5. These orders shall also apply to the civilian employees paid from the Defence Services Estimates and the expenditure will be chargeable to the relevant head of the Defence Services Estimates. In respect of Armed Forces personnel and Railway employees, separate orders will be issued by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways, respectively.

6. In their application to the persons belonging to Indian Audit and Accounts Department, these orders are issued under Article 148(5) of the Constitution and after consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

## **DPE ON CDA FROM JULY 2021**

[Applicable to staff of 69 CPSEs following CDA pay scales.]

**F. No. W-02/0038/2017-DPE (WC)-GL- 1/21**

**Ministry of Finance**

**Department of Public Enterprises**

**Date 20th July, 2021**

### **OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: Payment of DA to the CDA pattern employees of CPSEs, drawing pay in 7th CPC pay scales.**

**The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. No. W-02/0038/2017-DPE (WC) dated 28.04.2020 regarding freezing of Dearness Allowance to employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) drawing CDA pay scales.**

**2. The DA payable to the employees drawing pay in 7th CPC pay scale shall be enhanced from the existing rate of 17% to 28% with effect from 01.07.2021. The increase subsumes the additional instalments arising on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021. The rate of Dearness Allowance for the period from 01.01.2020 till 30.06.2021 shall remain at 17%.**

**3. The payment of Dearness Allowance involving fractions of 50 paise and above may be rounded off to the next higher rupee and the fractions of less than 50 paise may be ignored.**

**4. These rates are applicable in the case of CDA employees whose pay have been revised with effect from 01.01.2016 as per DPE's O.M. dated 17.08.2017.**

**5. All administrative Ministries/Departments of Government of India are requested to bring this to the notice of Central Public Sector Enterprises under their administrative control for action at their end.**



# **DEPT. OF PENSION ON DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FROM JULY 2021 TO CENTRAL SERVICE PENSIONERS.**

**DoP&PW OM No. 42/07/2021-P&PW(D) Dated 22-7-2021**

**Subject: Revised rates of Dearness Relief to Central Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2021**

The undersigned is directed to refer to Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) Office Memorandum No. 1/1/2020-E-II(B), dated 23.04.2020, vide which instalments of Dearness Relief to pensioners/family pensioners due from 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021, were frozen and to say that the President is pleased to decide that the Dearness Relief admissible to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners shall be enhanced from the existing rate of 17% to 28% of the basic pension/family pension (including additional pension/family pension) with effect from 1st July 2021. The increase subsumes the additional instalments arising on 01.01.2020, 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021. The rate of Dearness Relief, earlier determined vide- this Department's OM No. 42/04/2019- P&PW(D) dated 21.10.2019, shall remain at 17% of basic pension/family pension for the period from 01.01.2020 till 30.06.2021.

**2. These rates of Dearness Relief will be applicable to:**

- i. Civilian Central Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners including Central Government absorbed pensioners in PSU/Autonomous Bodies in respect of whom orders have been issued vide this Department's OM No. 4/34/2002-P&PW(D) Vol. II dated 23.06.2017 for restoration of full pension after expiry of commutation period of 15 years.**
- ii. The Armed Forces pensioners/family pensioners and Civilian pensioners/family pensioners paid out of the Defence Service Estimates.**
- iii. All India Services pensioners/family pensioners.**
- iv. Railway pensioners/family pensioners.**
- v. Pensioners who are in receipt of provisional pension.**

**[Contd. In next page]**

vi. The Burma Civilian pensioners/family pensioners and displaced pensioners/ family pensioners from Pakistan, in respect of whom orders have been issued vide this Department's OM No. 23/3/2008-P&PW(B) dated 11.09.2017.

3. The payment of Dearness Relief involving a fraction of a rupee shall be rounded off to the next higher rupee.

4. Other provisions governing grant of Dearness Relief in respect of employed family pensioners and re-employed Central Government Pensioners will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in this Department's OM No. 45/73/97-P&PW (G), dated 2.7.1999, as amended from time to time. The provisions relating to regulation of Dearness Relief where a pensioner is in receipt of more than one pension will remain unchanged.

5. In the case of retired Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, necessary orders will be issued by the Department of Justice separately.

6. It will be the responsibility of the pension disbursing authorities, including the nationalized banks, etc. to calculate the quantum of Dearness Relief payable in each individual case.

7. The offices of Accountant General and authorised Pension Disbursing Banks are requested to arrange payment of Dearness Relief to pensioners/family pensioners on the basis of these instructions without waiting for any further instructions from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Reserve Bank of India in view of letter No. 528-TA, II/34-80-II, dated 23/04/1981, of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India addressed to all Accountant Generals and Reserve Bank of India Circular No. GANB No. 2958/GA-64 (ii) (CGL)/81 dated the 21st May, 1981 addressed to State Bank of India and its subsidiaries and all Nationalised Banks.

8. In their application to the persons belonging to Indian Audit and Accounts Department, these orders are issued under Article 148(5) of the Constitution and after consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

9. These issues in pursuance of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's OM No. 1/1/2020-E. I1(B) dated 203 July, 2021.

10. Hindi version will follow.

## **AIBSNLPWA TAKES UP THE ISSUE OF PAYMENT OF IDA**

**Though orders were issued by Departments of Expenditure and Pension for payment of DA to central employees and pensioners at the revised rate from July 2021, the DPE did not issue any order till 28th July 2021 for payment of IDA to the PSU employees and pensioners. Hence, on 28-7-2021, our General Secretary sent the following Email to Secretary, DPE.**

Sir,

I am compelled to bring the following important matter to your personal notice for urgent action. In April 2020, the Government of India took a policy decision to freeze DA to central government employees and DR to central government pensioners till June 2021. Accordingly the Department of Expenditure issued order on 23-4-2020. Your office also issued an order on 28-4-2020 freezing the DA in the case of CPSE staff covered by CDA pay scales. On 19-11-2020 your office issued an order freezing the IDA for BSNL retirees when the rate of IDA was reduced from 160.7% to 159.9%.

Now the Government of India has taken a new policy decision to resume payment of DA/DR w.e.f. 1-7-2021. Accordingly the Department of Expenditure issued an order vide No. 1/1/2020-E-II (B) dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Your Office also issued an order vide F. No. W-02/0038/2017-DPE (WC)-GL- 1/21 dated 20-7-2021. The Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare too issued necessary order vide its DoP&PW OM No. 42/07/2021-P&PW (D) Dated 22-7-2021 for grant of Dearness Relief to the Pensioners at the revised rate from July 2021.

**But, till this time, your office has not issued any order for resuming payment of IDA at the revised rate w.e.f. 1-7-2021 to BSNL retirees.**

You are aware that Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in WP 29212/2020(B) had ordered on 17-2-2021 that the IDA freeze was not applicable to Non Executive staff of BSNL. Recently the Director (HR) of BSNL addressed a letter to you to intimate the rates of IDA effective from 1-10-2020, 1-1-2021 and 1-4-2021 enabling them to honour the said directive from High Court. It seems that your office has not responded to the letter from Director (HR) of BSNL even though the matter pertains to Court Case.

The two lakhs and odd BSNL retirees are anxiously waiting for the instruction from your office to receive the Industrial Dearness Relief due to them from 1-7-2021. I request you to kindly cause issuance of immediate order from your Office so that the BSNL pensioners are paid the IDA due to them without further delay.

Yours faithfully,

P Gangadhara Rao, General Secretary

# IDA RESUMED

**DPE OM No. F.N.W-02/0002/2014-DPE(WC)-GL-III/2021  
Dated 2nd August 2021**

**Subject:- Board level posts and below Board level posts including Non-unionized supervisors in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)- Revision of scales of pay w.e.f. 01.01 .2007 - Payment of IDA at revised rates-regarding.**

The undersigned is directed to refer DPE's OM No W-0210039/2017-DPE(WC)-GL-XVI/20 doted 19.11.2020, wherein DA rates w.e.f. 01.10.2020 have been frozen for Executives and Non Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs following IDA Pay pattern till 30.06.2021.

2. In modification of this Department's O.M. of even No. doted 17.08.2020, the rate of DA to the executives and non-unionized supervisors of CPSES (2007 pay revision) is increased from 159.9% to 170.5% w.e.f. 01.07.2021 (Calculation Sheet is attached at Annexure). The increase subsumes the additional installments arising on 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 and 01.04.2021. The rate of Dearness Allowance for the period from 01.10.2020 fill 30.06.2021 shall remain at 159.9%.

3 The above rate of DA i.e. 170.5% would be applicable in the case of IDA employees who have been allowed revised pay scales (2007 as per DPE O.Ms. dated 26.11.2008,09.02.2009 & 02.04.2009.

4 All administrative Ministries/Departments of the Government of India ore requested to bring the foregoing to the notice of the CPSEs under their administrative control for necessary action at their end.

## Calculation Sheet for Execulives and Non-Unionized Supervisors Following 2007 IDA Pay Scales:

Due Date	Average of Quarter	Link Point as on 1-1-07	Increase over Link	DA Rate	Remarks
1-10-2020	335.33	126.33	209	165.4%	Actual IDA rate for freeezing period (1.10.2020 to 30.6.2021) is 159.%. No arrears sahall be paid.
1-1-2021	343.20	126.33	216.87	171.7%	
1-4-2021	341.76	126.33	215.43	170.5%	

# THE NEW CALCULATION

**The DPE has adopted a new method for calculation fo IDA now.**

## Calculation as per DPE method-new

March 2021	- $119.6 \times 2.88 = 344.45$ (119.6 is Index in new Series)
April 2021	- $120.1 \times 2.88 = 345.89$ (345.89 is Index in earlier Series)
May 2021	- $120.6 \times 2.88 = 347.33$
Total of 3 Months = 1037.67	
Average of 3 months = 345.89	
Increase over Link Point of 126.33: $345.89 - 126.33 = 219.56$	
$219.56 \times 100 = 21956$	
$21956 \div 126.33 = 173.8$	

Therefore we are entitled to 173.8 % IDA from 1st July, 2021 for which orders are to be issued. In the same way June index is 121.7 (2016=100) and if we convert it to 2001= 100 series it comes to 350.50

Earlier 2001 = 100 series Index figures were always in round figures. But while converting 2016 = 100 figures to 2001=100 with conversion factor of 2.88 DPE is taking upto two decimal Points. (Please see work sheet of DPE Orders)

[Above input is from Com. V V S Murthy, former AGS at Hyderabad.]

**Earlier, the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, on which our IDA rate is fixed, was based on a Series with 2001 point = 100. Now a new Series with base year 2016=100 point is adopted. And the AICP Index is published as per new Series. For those who continue in 2007 Pay Scales, the new Index in new Series has to be converted in to old Series by multiplying with a factor of 2.88. That is why 119.6 (new Series) is converted in to 344.45 (earlier Series.) For those CPSE employees who got pay revision from 1-1-2017 the IDA is increased from 18.4% to 23.2%.**

.....PSR

# COVID19 NOT GONE

The Worldometre has published following figures as on 31st July 2021.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Total Infection</b>	<b>Total Death</b>	<b>Death/1000 cases</b>
<b>WORLD</b>	<b>198,010,967</b>	<b>4,224,124</b>	<b>21.3</b>
<b>USA</b>	<b>35,688,506</b>	<b>629,064</b>	<b>17.6</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>31,612,794</b>	<b>423,842</b>	<b>13.4</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>19,880,273</b>	<b>555,512</b>	<b>27.9</b>
<b>Russia</b>	<b>6,242,066</b>	<b>157,771</b>	<b>25.3</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>6,103,548</b>	<b>111,824</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>UK</b>	<b>5,830,774</b>	<b>129,583</b>	<b>22.2</b>
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>5,704,713</b>	<b>51,253</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>4,919,408</b>	<b>105,586</b>	<b>21.5</b>
<b>Colombia</b>	<b>4,776,291</b>	<b>120,432</b>	<b>25.2</b>
<b>Spain</b>	<b>44477044</b>	<b>81486</b>	<b>1.8</b>

<b>State</b>	<b>Total Infection</b>	<b>Total Death</b>	<b>Death/1000 cases</b>
<b>Andhra</b>	<b>1,962,049</b>	<b>13,332</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>1,001,781</b>	<b>13,520</b>	<b>13.5</b>
<b>Delhi</b>	<b>1,436,144</b>	<b>25,049</b>	<b>17.4</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>824,829</b>	<b>10,076</b>	<b>12.2</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>2,901,247</b>	<b>36,491</b>	<b>12.6</b>
<b>Kerala</b>	<b>3,349,365</b>	<b>16,585</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Maharastra</b>	<b>6,290,156</b>	<b>132,335</b>	<b>21.0</b>
<b>Tamilnadu</b>	<b>2,555,664</b>	<b>34,023</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>Uttarpradesh</b>	<b>1,708,373</b>	<b>22,755</b>	<b>13.3</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>1,526,539</b>	<b>18,123</b>	<b>11.9</b>



**Dr. Sreeja Krishna  
hands over FD for Rs 5 lakh**



**Grandson of  
Late Sh. Dasan**

## **FAMILY TRAGEDY**

**As reported in the previous Ejournal, Mr. Dasan, a retired Phone Mechanic and Life member of AIBSNLPWA in Trivandrum SSA expired due to Covid. His son and his wife also expired due to Covid in the same month. His daughter is married and hence not entitled to family pension. Daughter in law is also not entitled to FP as per rules. Grandson, a small boy of two years, though physically disabled is not entitled to FP.**

**On hearing the pathetic story of the family, the virtual meeting of our Trivandrum SSA unit held on 13th June 2021 decided to raise a 'DASAN FAMILY RELIEF FUND' and issued an appeal through whatsapp for liberal donation. Physical meetings are not possible. Hence our members were called upon to remit the amount on line. Com. Ramankutty, National President of AIBSNLPWA issued an appeal through a voice clip to donate to the fund.**

**Shri. C V Vinod, ITS, the respected CGMT of Kerala, an officer very sympathetic to pensioners, remitted online Rs. 3000 as his personal contribution to the noble cause. Com. P Gangadhara Rao (GS), Com. R Changappa (CS Karnataka) and Com. Ganeshan (Circle TR, KTK) , also sent Rs 2000 each as**

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**their personal donation. Members of AIBSNLPWA responded very positively to the call. By 16th July 2021 a sum of Rs. 586700 was received in the account, on-line, to the fund.**

**In a short function held at the residence of Late Sri Dasan on 16-7-2021 Dr. Sreeja Krishna, MD of Susrutha Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences, Kattakkada handed over the Fixed Certificate for **Rs FIVE lakh** to the grandson and P S Ramankutty handed over Bank Cheques for **Rs 43350 each** to the Daughter and Daughter-in-law of Shri Dasan. Dr. Sreeja Krishna announced on the occasion that her hospital is prepared to provide further treatment to the physically disabled boy **free of cost** if the family is willing to take Ayurvedic treatment.**

## **ANOTHER FAMILY TRAGEDY AT HYDERABAD**

**Sri V. Laxminarayana, JTO(BSNL Recruitee), Cell One, Hyderabad expired on 20.04.2021 due to Covid19. His spouse also was tested positive and unable to digest the sudden loss of her husband, she committed suicide on 26.04.2021 leaving behind two children aged 14 and 12 years.**

**An appeal was made by the DGM Cell one, Hyderabad (under whose control Sri. Laxminarayana was working) to all the members of the BSNL families to extend financial support to the orphaned children. Simultaneously, Hyderabad District branch of AIBSNLPWA also endorsed the appeal to all branches of Hyderabad through whatsapp message.**

**AIBSNLPWA members spontaneously responded to the appeal by contributing an amount of Rs. 2,10,520/- through online transfer within a short period. In total an amount of Rs. 26,79,789/ was received to the Fund.**





## **WE SETTLED ANOTHER LONG PENDING CASE**

**One Sri. S Palaniyandi, Lineman of Tiruchirapalli SSA in Tamilnadu was suspended from service on 23-8-2000 when CBI charged a criminal case against him. The CBI Court punished him on 5-12-2001. Immediately he was dismissed from service also.**

**Sh. Palaniyandi approached High Court of Madras (Madurai bench) against the decision of CBI Court. On 15-10-2009, the Hon'ble High Court set aside CBI Court order. CBI did not file any appeal against this decision of HC. After lot of correspondence, on 8-5-2018 the Director (Staff), DoT Directorate issued an order treating his suspension period and period from date of dismissal up to 30-6-2012 (his date of superannuation) as duty.**

**Before that, Sri. Palaniyandi expired on 15-5-2013. As such, he could not be paid the salary and other benefits for the period. As salary was not paid his wife could not apply for family pension too. He was not given opportunity to opt for BSNL as he was under suspension. He was DOT employee for all purposes.**

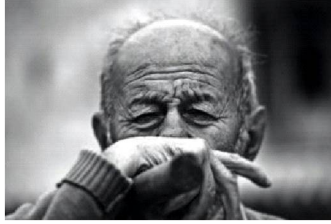
**Com. R Venkitachalam, Circle Secretary of AIBSNLPWA took up the case. Pr. CCA TN referred the case to DoT Directorate.**

**On 24-5-2021 our CHQ also wrote a letter to Member (Finance), Member (Service) and Director (Staff) DoT.**

**Finally, this long pending case is settled now. On 7-7-2021, the BSNL Corporate Office in consultation with DoT Directorate authorized Tamilnadu Circle to pay Mrs. Palaniyandi the salary arrears and other benefits due to late Sri. Palaniyandi. Tiruchirappalli SSA had only paid him the Subsistence Allowance. Therefore, CGMT Tamilnadu on 17-7-2021 authorized same Tiruuchirappalli SSA to pay the dues to wife of the deceased employee.**

**Smt. Maruthambal, the Wife of Sri. Palaniyandi, is entitled to Rs. 1560929 being Salary arrears and Rs 61001 being Bonus for the period. Total Rupees Sixteen Lakh Twenty-one Thousand Nine hundred and Thirty.**

**We congratulate our Tamilnadu leaders for pursuing this complicated case very meticulously and settling the same.**



## **PANDEMIC PROBLEMS for BSNL PENSIONERS**

### **THE INSENSITIVE BSNL**

**One retired Accounts Officer in Kerala has been undergoing dialysis for some time. He submitted bills for reimbursement and the total amount pending rose to Rs 10, 01,653.**

**Now he is infected with Covid19.  
His wife also got infected with Covid19.  
She is admitted in a hospital.  
Worst of all, their son too got infected.  
He is in another hospital.**

**The unfortunate pensioner having kidney problem and now infected with the pandemic is badly in need of some financial help by way of clearance of one or two pending bills, if not all.**

**Kerala Circle has no money left for reimbursement under BSNLMRS. Hence the CGMT took up the matter with Corporate Office. The insensitive Corporate Office is not prepared to release any amount.**

**The same Corporate Office, very promptly, within hours, sanctioned Rs 2 lakh to pay advance for treatment of CMD when he was admitted in a hospital with Covid19 tested positive.**

**We do appreciate the concern for CMD and the quick action by Corporate Office. But, should the Retirees of BSNL not get some consideration in such extreme distress? At least one per cent of the concern Corporate Office has for its Boss?**

**What crime the BSNL retirees have done for this inhuman, insensitive approach?**



## **PANDEMIC PROBLEMS for BSNL PENSIONERS**

### **PRIME MINISTER TELLS : STAY HOME BSNL MANAGEMENT ASKS : GO OUT.**

Last year, BSNL Management asked pensioners to exercise option for 2020-21 to avail the facilities under BSNLMRS. All BSNL retirees had opted either 'with voucher scheme' or 'without voucher scheme' for the year 2020-21 ended on 31st March 2021.

Despite options given and recorded, no BSNL Pensioner got reimbursement of medical expenditure from the BSNL after March 2019.

Despite the options on record of BSNL, no BSNL Pensioner received the quarterly medical allowance after March 2018.

It is not financial problem. Bills submitted by serving employees have been cleared. When the honourable CMD of BSNL was infected with Covid19 and admitted in a hospital at Meerut, the same BSNL Management, sanctioned Rs 2 lakhs and remitted advance to the hospital, within no time.

#### **Who says BSNL is inefficient?**

Thousands of BSNL retirees were infected with Covid19. Nobody got any advance for their treatment. No pensioner got reimbursement of amount paid to hospitals for Covid treatment. On the other hand, in addition to the amount paid to hospitals many of them were compelled to pay incometax for the amount not received.

Hundreds of BSNL retirees died due to Covid. BSNL Management did not show a lip sympathy even.

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And, strangely, after the financial year 2020-2021 was over on 31st March 2021, on 7th July 2021, the Corporate Office asked BSNL retirees to exercise option again for the same financial year 2020-2021 if they want cash allowance under the 'without voucher scheme' of BSNLMRS. *[Please see the BSNL CO order dated 7-7-21021 in next Page]*

Options should be done on-line. Five documents should be attached with the option form. And it should be done before 10-8-2021 also.

To do so, one should possess a smart phone. Many of the retirees do not have it. Even if they have smart phones many do not know how to take copies of the documents and send it to the designated officer of the Circle. Earlier, Options had to be submitted to respective SSA offices. Now it should be sent on line to Circle Office.

**CANCELLED BANK CHEQUE LEAF SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN ORIGINAL, ON-LINE !!**

While some pensioners do not have a Mobile Phone at all and vast majority has only one connection the retirees should give a **second mobile number** for this purpose.



For filing the on-line option majority of pensioners has only one option. Go out ; find out a cyber cafe with the facility. But, due to lockdown situation, at many places the cyber cafes do not function now. The Pensioners, the senior citizens, have to go out searching a suitable cyber cafe open.

Para 3 of the new letter dated 7-7-2021 says that medical allowance for 2020-21 will be released only to those who submit the options latest by 10-8-2021.

**What about the allowance for 2019-2020?**

**What about the allowance for 2018-2019?**

Para 4 of the same letter says that outdoor medical claims with vocoder for the FY 2020-21 will be released only to those pensioners who revalidate their cards before 10-8-2021.

**What about the bills pending from April 2019?**

What about those BSNL Pensioners died due to Covid19?

Who will revalidate their cards?

What about the BSNL CO letter dated 29-6-2020 which stipulated the last date for revalidation of Cards as 30-9-2021?



**BSNLCO/4/2021-ESTT FIN dated 7-7-2021**

**Sub: Revalidation of BSNL medical card and payment of medical cash allowance facility to retired employees - reg:**

**Ref: This office letter of even no. dated 8-5-2020 and 10-6-2020.**

Kindly refer to this office letters of even number dated 8-5-2020 and 10-6-2020 wherein it was mentioned that the BSNL retired employees have been given following three options for their outdoor medical claims:

- a) CGHS
- b) 15 days pay [with Voucher] [Basic Pay + DA on date of retirement]
- c) Rs 1000 [One thousand] per month [without Voucher]

2. In view of many retired/VRS optee employees have opted CGHS, changes in bank details, contact address and mobile numbers of many retired employees, it has been decided that option be called for from the retirees to avail the medical cash allowance facility for the financial year 2020-21 and in a requisite format along with the following details:

- \* Option Form (Including dependents self certification)
- \* Updated bank details
- \* PAN CARD (self attested photocopy)
- \* Cancelled Cheque (in original)
- \* Address proof
- \* Working Mobile Number plus one additional mobile number.

3. Payment of Medical Cash Allowance for the FY 2020-21 will be released only those retired officers/officials whose fresh option Form attached with the above requisite documents will be received in L&A Section [in the case of Corporate Office]/designated person in Circle Office latest by 10-8-2021.

4. Payment of outdoor medical claims with voucher for the FY 2020-21 will be released only those retired officers/officials whose validated medical card is received in L&A Section [in the case of Corporate Office]/designated person in Circle Office latest by 10-8-2021.

All Units/Circle Heads may ensure to call the options online as early as possible.

This is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

On 11-7-2021 our General Secretary sent the following Email to the New Minister for Communications.

Email Dated 11-07-2021

To  
Shri Ashwini Vaishnawji,  
Honourable Minister for Communications,  
New Delhi .

Respected Sir,  
Sub: Revalidation of Medical cards by BSNL Retirees

We wish to draw your kind attention to BSNL Corporate Office letter dated 7/7/2021 (vide BSNLCO/4/2021-ESTT FIN) that all BSNL Retirees should furnish online fresh option before 10-8-2021 to avail medical facilities under BSNLMRS for the year 2020-2021. BSNL management cannot ensure that this communication reaches nearly 2.5 lakh retirees even within six months. BSNL retirees, senior citizens (some of them super senior citizens) honestly feel that they are being harassed in this pandemic period because:

- a) They have already submitted option forms as per BSNL corporate office letter dated 13/7/2018 & 8/5/2020
- b) All the required particulars are already available with BSNL .
- c) Despite giving options, medical bills for out-door/indoor treatment are pending since 2018-2019
- d) Most of the retirees do not have the facility to apply on-line and they have to go out searching a cyber café with the facilities. It is not desirable for the senior citizens to go out in the present situation.
- e) BSNL offices deduct the TDS on such amounts shown in the reimbursement claims, without paying the amount to the pensioners. The pensioners are compelled to pay the charges to hospitals and also the income tax on the expected reimbursement.

In Trivandrum District alone, two BSNL retirees died recently as they could not pay the charges of dialysis and as the BSNL could not clear their pending bills.

Therefore, we request you Sir, to direct CMD, BSNL to withdraw the letter dated 7-7-2021 and to extend all benefits under BSNLMRS to the retirees based on their existing options. If any retiree, for some reason, wants to change the option he/she can be allowed to exercise fresh option. As per the existing orders, the retirees can change the option during April. Similarly if there is any change in Bank account, Mobile number etc. they may be asked to submit the changes. BSNL Corporate Office may please be asked to allot sufficient funds to Circles immediately to clear all pending bills from the retirees up-to-date and also to pay the quarterly allowance promptly. Some pensioners have migrated to CGHS. BSNL may be asked to pay all bills up to the date of their surrendering BSNLMRS cards.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-  
P Gangadhara Rao,  
General Secretary.



**On 15-7-2021 Com. Anupam Kaul, our AGS in Delhi brought the difficulties of pensioners to the notice of the Officer who issued the letter on 7-7-2021. The Officer not only justified the instructions but also told that pensioners of UP West and Haryana Circles have already completed the work.**

**Even before the CGMs of the Circles initiated action ?  
WE DO NOT KNOW.**

**Anyhow, it seems that the Corporate Office has given some oral instructions to Circles. The Heads of Kerala, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Chennai TD Maharashtra, and even Haryana Circles issued following instructions to field offices:**

*To  
Heads of all BAs/Units,*

*Sub:-BSNL MRS- Option for outdoor Medical claims -Clarification-reg:  
Ref-No.BSNLCO/4/2021-ESTT FIN Dated 07.07.2021.*

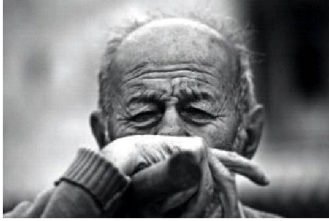
*Kind attention is invited to the letter cited above. In this connection, it is further clarified that all retirees who have submitted their option for the financial year 2020-21 need not submit fresh option. Fresh option may be submitted by only those:*

- i. whose bank account number and IFSC code are changed because of merger of banks.*
- ii. who wants to change the option.*

*This is issued with the approval of the competent authority.*

**But Heads of some Circles like Rajasthan and Punjab took a stand that they would act only on formal written orders from Corporate Office.**

**Therefore, our General Secretary sent another Email to the Director (HR) , BSNL on 23-7-2021. It is reproduced in next page.**



To

**EMAIL DATED 23-7-2021**

Director (HR),  
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,  
New Delhi 110001.

Attn: Shri Rajiv Kumar Sharma,  
DGM (Admn).

Sir,

**Sub: Revalidation of Medical cards by BSNL Retirees**

Kindly refer your Letter No. BSNLCO/4/2021-ESTT FIN dated 7-7-2021 on the subject. The letter states that cash allowance will be paid only to those who exercise fresh option for the year 2020-21 before 10-8-2021. Our Assistant General Secretary Shri Anupam Kaul had brought to the personal notice of DGM (Admn) the practical difficulties BSNL retirees face in the field to exercise fresh options.

- a) Retirees have already submitted option forms as per BSNL CO letter dated 13/7/2018 & 8/5/2020
- b) All the required particulars are already available with BSNL.
- c) Most of the retirees do not have the facility to apply on-line and they have to go out searching a cyber café with the facilities. It is not desirable for the senior citizens to go out in the present situation. Cyber Cafes do not function at many a places .

Heads of some Circles have issued further instructions that only those who want to change their existing options and whose bank particulars are changed need only exercise options afresh. At the same time, some Circles like Rajasthan maintain a stand that they follow CO order and that they shall act only on written instructions from CO. This has created difficulties for the retirees.

Considering the present grave situation you have extended the date for revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards up to 30-9-2021.

I request you to kindly issue formal instructions and ensure uniform procedure in the matter all over India and also to refix the last date for submission of option as 30-9-2021 so that the senior citizens are relieved from unwanted mental tension and physical problems.

Yours faithfully,

**P Gangadhara Rao,  
General Secretary.**



# **NEW HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY, FOR BSNL STAFF**

**BSNL CO No. 25-1/2021-BSNL(WL)/Admn dated 30-7-2021**

**To All Heads of Telecom Circles**

**On the above mentioned subject, it has been decided by the Competent Authority to implement the “BSNL Employees Health Insurance Policy, 2021” w.e.f. 01st September, 2021. The scheme is optional and its premium shall be paid by the concerned BSNL employee. The willing BSNL Employees are required to exercise their options to join the scheme online through ERP/ESS portal. The dates for the opening of POP UP Window & important guidelines for exercising online option on ERP/ESS portal will be intimated shortly.**

**The salient features of the scheme are attached herewith as Annexure”A”.**

**The Insurance Company will set up a nodal officer who will liaison with nodal officer of BSNL appointed specially for the purpose to look after the grievance of the employees, if any, in respect of the policy, its implementation and claim settlement. Accordingly, it is requested to nominate a Nodal Officer who will coordinate with the Insurance Company as and when required. The name, designation, mobile number and email id of the Nodal Officer may be submitted to this office latest by 14\* August, 2021. Only the information received from the authorized mobile number or email id of the Nodal Officer will be entertained by the Insurance Company.**

**It is requested that this letter should be given wide publicity and circulated among all the staff in the S5A/Zone/Unit under your jurisdiction for their option for “BSNL Employees Window in ERP/ESS Portal w.e.f. 05" August, 2021.**

**This is issued with Competent Authority**

## **Annexure “A”**

### **A. Salient Features**

- a. The policy is applicable for following category of employees who are working in BSNL  
(iii) All the regular employees of BSNL and  
(iv) All the employees working on deputation/ deployment basis in BSNL.
- b. The health insurance policy is offered in following two categories  
(j) Rs. 5 Lakh health insurance cover.  
(iii) Rs. 10 Lakh health insurance cover.
- a. Rs Lakh health insurance cover is applicable for all the employees including employees having scale of pay E5 & above. Three family options are available in this category. Top up value of Rs 5 Lakh is available in this category which is optional.
- b. Rs 10 Lakh health insurance cover is applicable only for the employees having scale of pay E5 & above. Six family options are available in this category i.e. three each in Rs Lakh & Rs 10 lakh cover respectively. Top up value of Rs 10 Lakh & 15 Lakh are available in this category which is optional.
- c. The validity of the policy is one year from the date of effect. The same needs renewal on expiry of one year period as per the terms and conditions and premium amount as mutually decided by the BSNL management and the Insurance Company as per the extant guidelines of IRDA.
- d. The policy is optional and deduction of premium amount from the salary of the employees may be made only for those employees who opt for the same.
- e. Date of commencement of policy is 01st September, 2021.
- f. The following are the basic premium rates and Top Up Policy rates for different options

#### **Basic Premium rates**

Options Cover	Rs 5 Lakh Health Insurance Cover	Rs 10 Lakh Health Insurance Cover
	Premium amount (in Rs) (GST @18% Extra)	
Option 1 — Without parents	6100	8300
Option 2 — With 01 parents	9000	11900
Option 3 — With 02 parents	9600	13300

#### **Top up policy rates**

% employees opting	Rs Lakh Health Insurance Cover		Rs 10 Lakh Health Insurance Cover	
	Rs Lakh TOP UP	Rs 10 Lakh TOP UP	Rs 10 Lakh TOP UP	Rs 15 Lakh TOP UP
	(Premium amount in % of base rate (GST @18% Extra))			
20% of employees opting	35% of base rate	45% of base rate	45% of base rate	70% of base rate
30% of employees opting	30% of base rate	40% of base rate	40% of base rate	65% of base rate
40% of employees opting	25% Of base rate	35% of base rate	35% of base rate	60% of base rate

g. Policy is for three family options in each category of Rs 5 lakh & Rs 10 lakh cover. The option 1 i.e. Without parents includes self + spouse + three children upto age of 25 years (born on or after 01st September, 1996) ;

Option 2 i.e. With one parents\* includes self + spouse + three children upto age of 25 years (born on or after 01" September, 1996 ), + one parent upto age of 85 years (born on or after 01st September, 1936) &

Option 3 i.e. With two parents includes self+spouse + three children upto the age of 25 years (born on or after 1st September 1996) + two parents up to age of 85 years (born on or after 1st September 1936.)

\* One parent means either father or mother or father-in-law or mother in law

\*\*Two parents means either Father & Mother OR Father-in-law and Mother-in-law.

Cross selection of parents is not allowed e.g. while making a set of two parents Father in law & mother is not allowed.

h. BSNL Management will only act as facilitator on behalf of the beneficiaries for the Health Insurance Policy.

i. The Health Insurance Policy shall be independent from the BSNLMRS and shall have no linkage of any kind from it.

j. The claim will be raised and settled by individual employee on its own. However, any grievances of employees in this respect will also be looked by BSNL through nodal officer appointed by Insurance Company.

k. The Insurance Company will set up a nodal officer who will liaison with nodal officer of BSNL appointed specialty for the purpose to look after the grievances of the employees, if any, in respect of the policy, its implementation and claim settlement.

l. BSNL will have no liability in respect of any default of individual employees in whatsoever manner related to insurance policy. BSNL will have no liability in respect of any data given in the application form by the individual employee.

m. Further details , copy of MoU will be made available with the POP up Window to be opened shortly. Important guidelines for exercising online option in ERP/ESS portal will be provided separately.

Note: Only online options are valid and final. No written applications/representations to join/withdraw will be accepted.

**The above policy does not cover retirees.  
However we are publishing the matter for information of pensioners.**

# **12 YEARS; MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

**'IMPOSSIBLE' MADE 'POSSIBLE'.** The very purpose of forming AIBSNLPWA was to obtain Pension Revision. Many people discouraged us saying that it was impossible; because there is no pension revision in Central Public Sector. But we realized that BSNL retirees are placed in a unique position where our pension is paid by Government of India directly, not by the Company. With determination we pursued the demand vigorously. Finally we achieved it. Cabinet itself approved the proposal and order was issued on 15-3-2011. Our pension was revised from 1-1-2007 with a formula: Existing Basic Pension + IDA of 68.8% + 30% of both= New Basic Pension.

## **MODIFICATION OF FITMENT FORMULA**

**68.8% IDA** was taken in line with the pay revision implemented in BSNL for serving staff. Later on, in June 2012, the staff unions in BSNL made an agreement with BSNL management for changing the formula with **78.2% IDA** instead of 68.8%. In the agreement it was stated that the modified formula shall be applicable to pensioners also. Countrywide campaign was conducted that they protected the interest of Retirees too. But leaders of AIBSNLPWA could not be misled by such propaganda as they knew well that BSNL had no authority to make any such agreement with anyone on matters pertaining to pension. As expected, the DoT directed BSNL Management to delete the particular sentence concerning Retirees and re-submit the agreement for approval. Management promptly obliged. Though the Staff Unions were aware of it they did not protest against unilateral modification of the bilateral agreement. Nor they publicized it. For one year the 'agreement' was not honoured. Once again, the Staff Unions served strike notice, and then, another agreement was made and modified orders were issued to revise the Pay of serving staff with effect from 1-1-2007 with modified formula of **78.2% IDA**, prospectively; from 10-6-2013. No sooner than it was disclosed AIBSNLPWA started efforts to get the modified formula for Pension Revision. After strenuous efforts for about three years we achieved this demand also. On 5-7-2016 Cabinet approved it. We acknowledge patronage we received from Late Shri H Ananthkumar, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. DoT finally issued orders on 18/7/2016. Total Beneficiaries are 1.18 lakh pensioners.

## **ANNULMENT OF 60:40 FORMULA**

By continuous efforts of AIBSNLPWA, the condition of **60:40** was removed after 12 years for which others tried but failed. Henceforth, BSNL pension does not depend upon the fiscal performance of BSNL. It is beneficial not only for the existing pensioners but also for more than 1.5 lakh future pensioners of BSNL. The decision

taken by Cabinet in 2011 to revise pension in BSNL, a CPSU, was epoch-making. Equally significant is the decision taken in 2016 to annul the irrational formula on 'pension liability sharing' between Government and BSNL.

#### **FULL PENSION AFTER 10 YEARS SERVICE**

Earlier, a central government employee was entitled to full pension after completing 33 years of qualifying service. 6th CPC changed the rule. All those who retired after 1-1-2006 got pension at 50% of last Pay Drawn after rendering qualifying service of ten years. We struggled and got it extended to BSNL retirees. Many have not understood impact of the above two changes. About 35000 casual labour in Telecom were regularized in 1988/1989. Most of them retired after 1-1-2006 with less than 20 years qualifying service. An example: A pensioner who was Casual Labour thus regularized in 1989 and retired in 2006 was drawing pro-rata basic pension of Rs 2575. His pension was revised to Rs 5008 from 2006 and again revised to Rs 10990 from 1-1-2007. Only because of the efforts of AIBSNLPWA, thousands of comrades retired from line staff cadres are receiving comparatively better pension now. Now, we are in the Court to get it extended to all BSNL staff retired from October 2000 to December 2005 also.

#### **CASES OF EX SERVICEMEN:**

Ex Servicemen were receiving two pensions. According to the Deptt. of Pension orders they were entitled to the floor ceiling of Rs. 3500 separately in both the pensions. But, the order issued by DOT on 15-3-2010, said that both the pensions would be taken together and the floor ceiling of Rs 3500 applied. AIBSNLPWA took up the case with Directorate pointing out DoP&PW orders. Finally DoT Directorate conceded to the demand and issued clarification. Till then, the spouses of deceased ex-servicemen re-employed in Telecom were eligible to only one family pension, either from military or from Telecom. AIBSNLPWA rightly took up their case and got it settled. Orders were issued that such spouses are entitled to two family pensions, with minimum of Rs. 3500 each and separately.

#### **MRS TO FAMILY PENSIONERS**

Some circles denied the benefit of BSNLMRS to family pensioners. On the demand of AIBSNLPWA Directorate issued orders stating that family pensioners of deceased pensioners are also entitled to the said benefits. A similar stand was taken by Department later in the matter of reimbursement of fees paid for migrating to CGHS. We intervened in this also and settled the matter, as a result, family pensioners are eligible to reimbursement of fees paid to CGHS.

#### **MRS TO INVALID PENSIONERS**

Good number of Telecom employees were forced to take premature retirement on health reasons. The BSNL refused to extend benefits of BSNLMRS to such retirees. We struggled against this inhuman attitude and got the benefits of MRS extended to invalidated pensioners also.

### **DELAY IN PAYMENT OF IDR**

In some Circles the pensioners were getting enhanced rate of IDA every time six months after release of the order by DPE, due to procedures followed. On our intervention, Directorate authorized the DoT Cells to download the DPE order directly and circulate to Pension Paying Authorities. This change reduced delay.

### **STAFF QUARTERS TO PENSIONERS**

Accepting the demand of AIBSNLPWA, BSNL Corporate Office agreed to allot vacant staff quarters to BSNL pensioners. But the rent fixed is very exorbitant. The matter is being pursued further.

### **BROADBAND AT CONCESSIONAL RATE**

This was another demand AIBSNLPWA placed and followed up. BSNL finally accepted the demand. Concession of 60% or Rs. 300 whichever is less is allowed to BSNL retirees.

### **DEFERRED OPTION CASES**

Details are avoided. In September 2004 BSNL permitted absorbed Executives to opt IDA payscales from the date of their promotion which gave them benefit of one or two increments with consequential benefit in Pension. Most of the CCAs did not accept BSNL order. Sri. Balakrishnan of Kerala approached CAT and obtained a favourable judgement. DoT allowed Kerala CCA to honour the judgement. Executives placed in similar situation in other Circles did not get the benefit. Com. A Sugumaran and 11 others in Tamilnadu filed a case and obtained similar order from CAT Madras. In November 2010 DoT issued a general instruction to all CCAs to grant the benefit in pension based on BSNL order. But some CCAs like TN and WB did not honour DoT order even. PCCA TN filed an appeal in High Court which was dismissed at admission stage itself. AIBSNLPWA intervened in the matter. The then Dy GS Late Com. Chhidu Singh pursued the matter in Directorate and convinced the DDG. In Chennai our Units in TN and Chennai Circles decided to organize massive protest demonstration. Finally about 250 Executives in Tamilnadu were allowed the benefits of deferred option. Good number of absorbed Executives all over the country were benefitted by our timely intervention.

### **FAMILY PENSION CASES**

Hundreds of family members thrown to distress due to sudden demise of the breadwinners were brought to decent lives due to consistent efforts of our activists at different levels in various Circles. As it takes number of pages to narrate cases we do not give details here to save space. We proved that we are an organization worth of its name, Welfare Association. When tears of joy come out of the eyes of such hapless people, the functionaries of AIBSNLPWA, who helped them, get the real virtue, blessedness and salvation.

## MARCH FORWARD WITH CONFIDENCE

With the achievements, narrated before, we must march forward with confidence to the target. We have a target. We want a permanent and sustainable system for **periodic pension revision** along with central government pensioners. It should be totally delinked from pay revision in BSNL, from PRC formula, from financial position of BSNL. Since all our efforts to have a negotiated settlement failed we filed a case before the principal bench of CAT New Delhi. But due to the lockdown on account of coronavirus the case is delayed too much. It was adjourned several times. The case was finally taken up for hearing on 5-8-21. Our Lawyer told the Court that BSNL has no yet filed its reply despite three chances given and hence right to reply should be closed and arguments should start. But Court allowed one week to BSNL. The reply to our rejoinder by the respondents was taken on record and the case is posted to 10-9-2021.

We observe with great concern that the government and the bureaucracy do not give any respect to the judiciary these days. Classic example is our **Pension Anomaly Case**. We won the case in CAT, Principal bench on 16th December 2016. Department did not honour the judgement. We filed a case for contempt of court. Then department went on appeal to High Court of Delhi. High Court rejected their appeal. High Court order was also not honoured by the authorities. After waiting for considerable time we revived our contempt petition. Once again, in November 2020, the CAT directed the department to honour its original judgement and revise the pension of those who retired during the first nine months after formation of BSNL. The time limit given is also over. Pension department has asked the DoT to implement the court judgement and avoid contempt proceedings. Since there is no avail we have filed new case of **contempt to contempt**. It is admitted by the CAT. This case is also pending. Originally there were 4230 beneficiaries. **Majority of them have left this world without getting the justice**. Those who are alive are above 80 years of age. Authorities are insensitive to reason.

Then there are two other cases; one pending in High Court of Kerala and the other in CAT Ernakulam. The first one was **for getting pension at 50% of last pay drawn** for all the BSNL employees who retired from October 2000 to December 2005. The CAT rejected our appeal. And we have filed an appeal in the high court of Kerala. Lock down condition has delayed the proceedings of this case too. The other case is **to get arrears of pension revision with 78.2% IDA from 1-1-2007 instead of 10-6-2013**. Case was taken up by CAT virtually, adjourned several times. We have no alternative but to wait. We shall not give up. NEVER.

**[For details, please listen to the Voice Clips by Com. DG on formation of AIBSNLPWA, its activities, gains achieved and pending problems being handled. The Voice Clips are posted daily in our CHQ Whatsapp groups]**



## **FORMATION CONFERENCE OF AIBSNLPWA: 2009**

**Top: CCA TN, Smt Akhilandeswari, Chhidu Singh, K Muthiyalu, P S Ramankutty, V Ramarao and G Natarajan on the dias**

**Bottom: And the founders begin with prayer**

