

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION [Regd. T1833/09]

Central Head Quarters

H. No 6, G No 12th Street, Jogupalya, Halasuru, Bangalore 560008

Website: www.bsnlpensioner.in President: P S Ramankutty Phone: 9447551555 eMail: bsnlpensioner@gmail.com General Secretary: P Gangadhara Rao Phone: 9448088404

Email dated 30-9-2021

To Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Respected Madam,

1. I am compelled to bring the following matter to your personal notice for immediate remedial action.

2. Our Association, AIBSNLPWA, is the largest organization of Telecom pensioners including BSNL retirees, representing about a lakh of them.

3. Those who retired from Department of Telecom, before 1-10-2000, are entitled to pension with CDA. Whereas those retired from BSNL, on or after 1-10-2000, are entitled to pension with IDA, as specified by the Department of Public Enterprises from time to time.

4. Recently the Government has released the frozen part of CDA with effect from July 2021. Those who retired from Department of Telecom are paid the pension with CDA @28% of the basic pension, a rate which was applicable for the period of January-June 2021. As per the AICPI(IW), officially announced by the Labour Bureau of India, all central government employees and pensioners are entitled to get CDA @31% from July 2021. The increase of 3% from 28% to 31% is not yet granted even after three months.

5. For the last 15 years the Cabinet used to accord its approval in the month of August for revision of CDA rate effective from July and the Department of Expenditure used to issue orders in first week of September. Hence we are not aware of the reason for the unusual delay.

6. In the case of BSNL retirees, covered by CCS Pension Rule 1972, the Government had frozen their IDA at 159.9% till June 2021. They were entitled to IDA of 170.5% of their Basic Pension from April 2021 to June 2021. It was released from July 2021. But they are not yet granted the IDA of 173.6% entitled by them, from July 2021, as per the calculations based on AICPI(IW), officially released by Labour Bureau of India.

7. During the last one decade, the Department of Public Enterprises under Ministry of Heavy Industries, used to declare rate of IDA to the

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employees and retirees of PSEs. But, presumably due to the changes effected recently, DPE has not yet declared the rate of IDA due from July 2021.

8. We understand that the DPE is waiting for your approval of the File in this regard.

9. Another revision of IDA is due from tomorrow, 1^{st} October 2021. Normally DPE used to declare the rate in first week of October and the employees and pensioners get the revised rate of IDA in the same month itself. Next revision of CDA is due from January 2022 only. DPE need not wait for the CDA revision to announce the rate of IDA every three months. Both are not linked.

10. We fear that since the enhanced rate of IDA due from July 2021 is not yet announced there will be delay in announcing the revised rate of IDA from October 2021 also.

11. More than a crore of central government employees and pensioners were waiting for the release of order by DOE on revision of CDA from July 2021. Similarly, lakhs of serving staff and retirees were also anxiously waiting for the formal announcement of rate of IDA by DPE. They are all totally frustrated over the undue delay.

12. We hereby convey the concern of crores of people over the very unusual and undue delay in this regard.

13. May we request you, Madam, to direct the Secretary, DOE to issue necessary orders for revising the CDA w.e.f. 1-7-2021 and also direct the Secretary, DPE to issue orders specifying the rate of IDA due from July 2021 and October 2021 as they have been doing earlier without waiting for the approval of Cabinet or the Department of Expenditure.

Yours Faithfully,

P. Gangadhara Rao, General Secretary.