

PENSIONERS' PATRIKA

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DELEGATES IN DINING HALL



WELCOME TO
Sh. SURESH
KRISHNA,
CGMT, ANDHRA

DELEGATES IN DINING HALL



PENSIONERS PATRIKA

BIMONTHLY JOURNAL
OF AIBSNLPWA (CHQ)

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Editorial

BACK FROM AN AWESOME EVENT

The fourth triennial national conference of AIBSNLPWA held in Visakhapatnam was an awesome event that created a history, an event to be remembered for long. It was a fabulous event professionally managed by retirees of Visakhapatnam. I was really excited to see a team of retired DGMs, AGMs, SDEs and others working round the clock in the Control Room, some of them again serving the food from the six counters arranged in the spacious dining area. The Reception Committee was headed by Shri R M Patnaik, retired DGM having no trade union work experience but he was so systematic and meticulous in planning every aspect of the work and executing them. He was assisted by Shri Somasundara Rao, the General Secretary of Reception Committee and Shri Srimannarayana, District President of our Visakhapatnam SSA Unit and others. Shri K V D Swamy, a dedicated comrade known to me personally for 35 years was in charge of accommodation who arranged more than 400 hotel rooms to accommodate all the 1300 delegates and 130 visitors. It was a difficult job but Com. Swamy accomplished it most successfully. Of course, some people who came with spouses, without intimating the Reception Committee in advance, had to wait for a while. Such comrades should appreciate the burden put on the hosts. Still Com. Swamy could arrange comfortable accommodation for all.

Reception Committee collected Rs 1300 as Delegate Fee from each participant but spent more than Rs 3700 per head for lodging and boarding. The food served suited people from all regions. Andhra comrades could do it. Many other circles may not be able to take up such stupendous task. For funds we do not approach anyone outside. We managed all our conferences with the fund donated by our members. This time too it was done. It was a national conference meticulously planned, perfectly organized in a most professional manner. Hosting a conference itself is an organizational work. Vizag comrades have set an amazing example, which, I fear, many cannot follow.

Finally let me put few words, though personal, here. I went to Visakhapatnam conference with determination to step down from the important post of President and pave way for new. I am happy I could make over the responsibility of the President of our mighty organization to Com. D Gopalakrishnan, much more efficient than I. It could have been done much earlier but for the reluctance by DG himself.

It is not a farewell message because I am in AIBSNLPWA and I shall continue to be, come what may. I shall do the work of editor as long as I am able to do it mentally and physically. Thanks to all for the wonderful cooperation, love and affection extended to me.

P S Ramankutty



GS WRITES

Dear comrades

I thank all the delegates of our AIC held on 2nd and 3rd December 22 at Visakhapatnam for electing me as GS unanimously of this mighty organization. I shall honestly discharge my duties and responsibilities which are expected of me. I appeal to all throughout the country to effectively implement the agitational programmes in coordination with other like-minded associations and thereafter send the report to me promptly.

CWC held on 1-12-2022 at Visakhapatnam unanimously decided to allot the timing for each circle based on membership for discussion by the delegates. Freedom was given to circle secretaries to give the names of speakers. After hearing the delegates, 4th Triennial AIC unanimously passed a resolution on pension revision clearly spelling out our stand.

I still remember the advice of late Com. O P Gupta that leaders should not be intoxicated with majority support and that they should appreciate the views of minority too. At the same time, minority has no right to veto the decision taken by majority. In democracy the majority views prevail always. We have a principled stand on our demand for pension revision. Some comrades raised a doubt if anything permanent can be assured. In our Universe when everything is changing, nothing is permanent. Nobody can definitely say that the government will appoint another Pay Commission. There is no guaranty that the government will appoint another PRC too. In any case, a government cannot ignore the central government pensioners numbering 70 Lakhs now. As GS

I must move with the mandate by the All India Conference. I earnestly appeal to all particularly the office bearers at all levels to speak in one voice to take the message to our members throughout the country.

We are aware of the present political situation in the country. Our Association alone or the pensioners community in general cannot change the political scenario. Our Association has members of all political views. I am neither against any particular political ideology nor am I controlled by any one. I assure all of you that I shall not succumb to any pressure from any group.

The gigantic task of holding AIC in Andhra at Visakhapatnam was accomplished with great success with highly devoted local leaders and members in Visakhapatnam and in other districts like in AP. Telangana Circle has also lent its helping hand. We have held our national conference in a most amazing manner. After some time, it may not be possible to hold our AIC in such a gigantic way. Hence our AIC has taken a conscious decision to amend the constitution to restrict the number of participants. There are different types of Circle Units. Tamilnadu has 16000 members, AP has more than 10000 members, Karnataka has more than 8000 and Kerala has more than 6000. On the other hand, there are some Circles having less than 500 members. So, same yardstick cannot be applied for all circles. Thus the amendments to Constitution became essential. We shall amend the constitution suitably based on our further growth and experiences. In any case, all of us have to work strictly abiding the constitutional provisions and organizational discipline.
Greetings to all.

V Vara Prasad, GS



AIC RESOLUTION

1. The All India Conference of AIBSNLPWA held at Visakhapatnam on 2nd & 3rd December 2022 under the chairmanship of Com. P S Ramankutty discussed at length the issue of Pension revision from 01-01-2017 for BSNL/MTNL retirees who opted for Government pension on combined service and covered under CCS (Pension) rules 1972/2021.

2. On the basis of deliberations, it is unanimously decided to pursue the demand of Pension revision on the basis of 7th CPC fitment factor on IDA both for pre-2017 and post-2017 retirees.

In case of no possibility to get 7th CPC fitment factor on IDA pattern, the Conference authorizes the CHQ to pursue the demand of Pension revision on the basis of 7th CPC fitment factor by conversion of IDA- pension to CDA pension as a second alternative proposal which requires amendment to existing rules.

3. The Conference directs the CHQ to pursue the court case filed before PB CAT, New Delhi vigorously and engage senior counsel with the concurrence of the existing lawyer irrespective of the cost involved.

OUR GENERAL SECRETARY



Com. V Vara Prasad joined the Telecom Department as Telephone Operator in 1976 in Vijayawada Telephone Division. He became Junior Accounts Officer in 1993, Accounts officer in 2000 and Chief Accounts Officer in 2009. He worked for some time in the BSNL Corporate Office also. He retired on superannuation in August 2016.

He had served as Branch Secretary in NFPTA while working as Telephone Operator in Vijayawada during 1981-83 and was active till his promotion as JAO. He was also active in AFSSA and AIBSNLEA till his retirement. In AIBSNLPWA, he was elected as Circle Secretary of AP Circle in 2017 and was working till December 2022. He was elected as Dy.GS in All India Conference held at Puri in 2018. Now at Visakhapatnam he is elected as our General Secretary.

RESOLUTION ON ACTION PROGRAMME ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

The All India Conference of AIBSNLPWA held at Visakhapatnam on 2nd & 3rd December 2022 under the chairmanship of Com. P S Ramankutty unanimously decided the following programme of action, in view of the negative attitude taken by DOT on the issue of Pension revision to BSNL/ MTNL retirees who opted for Government pension on combined service and covered under CCS (Pension) rules 1972/2021. These pensioners are compelled to resort to agitational programme because the discussion with DOT officers for more than five years did not yield any positive results.

This conference in consultation with likeminded pensioners' associations who are pursuing pension revision from 01-01-2017 on the basis of 7thCPC fitment factor decides

Tentative Action Programme;

- 1. Call Attention Day on 19-12-2022 (Monday). Holding demonstrations before Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi and in all SSA Head Quarters throughout the country. (Timings may be decided locally)**
- 2. Two days Dharna from 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs on 17th & 18th January 2023 (Tuesday and Wednesday) at Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi and CCA offices throughout the country.**
- 3. Rally: March to Sanchar Bhavan and all CCA offices throughout the country on 8th February 2023 (Wednesday). Timings can be locally decided.**

In case of any exigency arises the CHQ is authorized to change the date in consultation with likeminded organizations.

If DOT does not settle the issue of Pension revision as per 7th CPC fitment factor AIC authorizes the CHQ to decide further programme of action in consultation with the likeminded organizations.

VISAKHAPATNAM AIC

A REPORT

Enthusiasm was visible everywhere, the conference hall, the dining area and the nearby streets, when Delegates from all circles met the old friends after four years, shared their experiences during the pandemic. Almost 75 percent of the participants reached Visakhapatnam on 1st December 2022 itself, some even before that. Delegates being senior citizens were happy to see that the Reception Committee has arranged hotel rooms for all. The Conference Hall, Subbalakshmi Kalyana Mandapam, having a capacity of 1500 seats, was the biggest hall available in Vizag city. Accommodation was arranged in hotels nearby, within walking distance except for the comrades from the host Circle.

A Control Room was functioning round the clock which was manned by number of Retired Executives including some ladies. All 1200 participants were registered without any delay as the people in the Control room were ready with all necessary documents. Few comrades who preferred not to send any advance intimation had to wait for a while. They were also accommodated comfortably soon. As a whole, it was a festive mood everywhere. Com. P Gangadhara Rao, GS reached the venue on 30th November 2022 itself and inspected all arrangements. He was briefed by Shri M R Patnaik, Chairman of Reception Committee, K Somasundara Rao, Secretary RC and Shri Srimannarayana, District President of Visakhapatnam Unit. Com. P S Ramankutty, the President reached around 11 AM on 1-12-2022. He was taken to the kitchen which was equipped with all

modern machines. The vegetables and other materials purchased were kept in a most hygienic manner.

CWC Meeting on 1-12-2022

Central Working Committee met at 3 PM on 1-12-2022 as notified with Com. PSR on the chair. Out of the 35 CHQ office-bearers elected at Puri AIC two are no more now. Com. A Sugumaran (VP), Com. Anupam Kaul and Com H S Prasad (AGS) and Com. S R Dutta (OS) have intimated their inability to attend the conference. Com. Chandrika Singh (OS), Com Jagdhir Singh (AGS), Com. J S Mallik (CS Haryana) and New Circle Secretary of West Bengal are absent. Following attended the meeting:

Office-Bearers:

S/Shri P S Ramankutty, A Sudhakara Rao, D Gopalakrishnan, G Babu, G Natarajan, J K Tripathy, Rajendra Chaudhury, R H Mitkary, V S Thakur, P Gangadhara Rao, K Muthiyalu, Varaprasad, T S Vittoban, V Rama Rao, Ms. V Rathna, Bhaskara Ch. Nayak, Gyan Singh, J S Dahiya, R N Pada Nair, Radhakrishna, Smt A P Saraswathy, Atma Ram Verma, B C Joshi, Mahatma Pathak, R S N Murthy, Syamalendu Bhattacharjee, and Somanadham

Circle Secretaries:

S/s Varaprasad, Shyamalendu Bhattacharjee, H N Singh, B P S Chauhan, S Thangaraj, K R Rana, R N Singh, R Changappa, T P George, Narender, B N Behera, G S Bajwa, Ram Avtar Sharma, Sundara Krishnan, E Upendra, J N Dubey and Kailash Gautam.

Com. Gangadhara Rao, GS welcomed all Report and Accounts, already circulated through Patrika, were taken as read. Com. K Muthiyalu suggested some additions to the Report pertaining to national scenario which were accepted. He placed some other suggestions regarding additional pension on reaching the age of 65 years which could not be included in the Report as it was not part of our activities. Com. DG suggested that they should form part of resolutions to be adopted as they are demands of all pensioners. Com. Thangaraj, CS Chennai TD also wanted some modification of paragraph pertaining Bangalore Secretariat meeting. With minor changes the Report was adopted by the House. Similarly the accounts were also adopted unanimously.

Com. R A Sharma (CS Rajasthan) pointed out that a Circular issued by Com. Muthyalu, after Bangalore Secretariat meeting, openly criticising the demand of our Association created unwanted confusion and the said action of Dy GS is nothing but gross indiscipline. Com. Muthyalu defended his action stating that he has every right to express views. Com. DG stated that everyone has right to express his views. Here the question is different. In 2013 Ernakulam CWC constituted a committee consisting of CWC five members including Com. Muthiyalu to formulate our demand. Committee proposed a demand for pension revision with the CPC fitment formula. Several subsequent CWC meetings accepted and reiterated the proposal and the same was approved by all India conferences also. Thereafter if an office bearer issues a circular against it, that too all over India, it is clear indiscipline. Com. Muthiyalu reacted saying CHQ also changed the demand asking CDA pension. Com PSR stated that we have never changed our basic demand of CPC fitment. As an alternative we suggested conversion of IDA pension to CDA

pension and then revision with CPC fitment factor. Whereas Com Muthiyalu in his Circular stated that pension revision follows pay revision which is totally negation of our stand. At this stage Com. Muthiyalu told that he has issued a Circular only once and he had no intention of violating discipline. He stated that regrets for his action and also that he is prepared for any punishment for the same. President closed the debate on the issue.

CWC debated upon the proposals on amendments to the constitution. GS told that Constitution of our association drafted 13 years ago and amended slightly in Bangalore and Puri conferences need further amendments based on our experiences. We have spectacular growth but our growth is uneven. We have big Circles like Tamilnadu and Andhra with more than 10000 life members and also small Circles like West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana and Assam with less than 500 members. Our AIC is a huge affair and few Circles only can host it. Similarly big Circles have to spend huge amount for their circle conferences whereas number of participants in small Circle conferences is too small also. As such some changes are essential in the Constitution pertaining to conferences, he said. Circle units can be categorized as Minor (Membership up to 5000), Medium (Membership of 5001-10000) and Major with more than 1000 members. The virtual CWC had constituted a Sub committee consisting of Circle secretaries of TN, AP and Karnataka with GS as Convener. The Subcommittee had two meetings and submitted some proposals which are already circulated through the Patrika. There was general agreement on most of the proposals: on few other proposals the CWC made some changes.

(The amended Constitution in full is published in pages 19-24 in this Patrika.)

CWC constituted a Resolution Committee consisting of Coms. Sundara Krishnan, R N Padanair and R H Mitkary. A Minutes Committee consisting of Comrades A P Saraswathy and V Ratna was also constituted.

President further told that keeping our tradition, Circles should suggest names of their nominees for the posts of office-bearers so that we can elect the new team without wasting time for voting and counting even though CHQ is well prepared for the same. We have to elect 35 office bearers. We have 64000 life members as on 31-3-2022. Based on the membership of each circle he allotted number of posts. Few Circles having less than 500 members cannot be given any post this time because there is commendable growth of membership in some other circles. At the same time, major circles should sacrifice some posts to accommodate minor circles to ensure their participation and growth in future. President allotted time for discussion to each circle based on membership and the circle secretaries should give the names of speakers. Finally Com. PSR told that he cannot continue as President due to health reasons and Com. DG should take over as President. The House agreed to his suggestions. President informed the House that Communication Minister was inclined to attend our conference but till two days back it was not confirmed. Now it is known that the Minister is busy with election campaign in Gujarat. Hence we have requested Com. M K Bagchi, veteran leader of MTNL pensioners to inaugurate the conference.

CWC meeting ended at 7.30 PM

ALL INDIA CONFERENCE

Flag Hoisting:

At 9.45 Shri M R Patnaik unfurled the National Flag and President Com. PSR unfurled the Association flag amidst slogan shouting.

At 10 AM, Subject Committee commenced with a prayer by Shri Jwala Prasad, Retired DGM. While Shri M R Patnaik welcomed all Guests and leaders Shri Srimannarayana presented to them floral bouquets.

Inauguration:

Com. M K Bagchi, President, Retired Telecom Officers Welfare Association (MTNL) Delhi in his inaugural speech appreciated the prominent role played by AIBSNLPWA in the struggle for achieving the common demand of pension revision. There were some organizations of Telecom pensioners but the whole scenario was changed when your association came to the field in 2009. Pension Revision issue became a live one once you took up the matter. Your interactions with the Ministers Mr. Raja and Mr. Kapil Sibal brought the result of pension revision from 1-1-2007. Com. Gangadhar Rao could establish a good contact with Late Mr. Ananthakumar that helped to get the 60:40 formula annulled. Now once again, pension revision has become a serious issue. Different organizations have different ideas. Your association gave solution to the problem. You have taken initiative to form CBMPA, a great step in deed. Com. DG has contributed much in discussions and drafting documents. Though some friends plead for pension revision with PRC fitment formula we cannot agree to it. Since MTNL pay structure is different than that of yours we have filed two cases before CAT separately. Difference of opinion amongst organizations is detrimental to our common interest. We have only one route before us, that is pension revision with CPC fitment formula. He pleaded for unity of pensioners' associations based on demand. Com. Bagchi fended his speech wishing this massive conference a great success.

Thereafter Com. P S Ramankutty presented his presidential address.

Keynote Address by Com. DG

Com. DG started his speech congratulating AP comrades for the wonderful arrangements made for the conference. AIBSNLPWA has made a remarkable achievement fighting prolonged legal war for justice in the matter of pension anomaly of those who retired between 2000 October and 2001 June. More than 4000 pensioners and family pensioners (LTA) received lakhs of rupees. Similarly, it is AIBSNLPWA that took up the issue and wrote a letter to DoT on 4/2/2020 itself for provisional pension to the VRS retirees. None else took up the matter. We anticipated the delay and acted very promptly. VRS retirees got their January salary only after two months but they got their pension on the last day of February 2020. It has enthused the VRS retirees. Though some circles took necessary initiative to enroll them as members many circles did not do that job. Totally 75,178 took VRS from 23 circles out of which only 23.62% became our members. Tamilnadu enrolled 69.81%; Andhra 50.09%; Karnataka 47.6% and Punjab 40.15% of VRS retirees became our members.

CPC fitment factor is the correct solution for pension revision problem. Right from 2013 Ernakulam CWC our Association studied the case and took up a principled position. After the Puri AIC we visited Delhi 6 times and met Hon MoC & other officers; we have written 13 detailed letters to the Secretary and 4 letters to the Minister. We persistently pursued the matter. We met the present minister in March and July 2022. He agreed that pay revision of BSNL staff and Pension revision cannot go together. For the first time in the history Member (S) held a formal discussion with Pensioners' Associations only because of our effective intervention. During the said discussion Member Services admitted that zero fitment shall not benefit any one. We only demanded 'minutes' of the

meeting which was given. But, the Record of Discussion supplied later on gave different picture. Unbelievable things are taking place. DOT is quoting some judgements which are convenient to them to reject our demand. They do not consider the constitutional courts judgements which we quoted.

BSNL pensioners are placed in a unique situation, entirely different from other CPSE retirees who are getting pension from the respective CPSE. We are getting pension on combined service from the Government under central civil estimate. We are not dogmatic on the demand but firm on CPC fitment factor. Because it would provide a permanent solution. If pension revision from 1-1-2017 in IDA pattern is not possible we are ready for conversion of IDA pension to CDA pension with effect from 1-1-2016 then pension revision with CPC fitment factor. It is conversion of pension from IDA pattern to CDA pattern; not conversion of Pay as some people think. Both are quite different. We have taken care of the VRS pensioners also while formulating the demand for pension revision. We must think of future pensioners too. Before concluding his speech Com. DG pointed out that government has saved crores and crores of rupees by denying gratuity under payment of Gratuity Act 1972 (in this act, LPD plus IDA is divided by 26 and 15 days pay plus DA for every year of qualifying service without ceiling of 16-1/2 months) to us.

Com. Gangadhara Rao, GS

Addressing the conference GS compared the past three conferences and the present one. Vizag AIC is the best organized. He suggested that it is prudent to migrate to CGHS from BSNLMRS. AIBSNLPWA is identified by the Pension Department. Facility of Pensioners Portal is available to us now. Our people have helped number of

pensioners to file digital life certificate. Our Circles and District Units should start whatsapp groups with maximum number of participants so that we can communicate with at least 50000 members instantly.

Com. K Somasundara Rao, General Secretary of Reception Committee proposed vote of thanks which marked end of the inaugural session at 1230 hours.

REPORT, ACCOUNTS AND DEBATE

Immediately after the inaugural function GS read out the condolence portion of Report published. Entire House stood up in silence for a minute paying homage to all mentioned in the Report. Rest of the report and the accounts already published in Patrika and circulated to the delegates was treated as read and debate followed on the same.

Com. K Muthiyalu, Deputy GS spoke on organizational aspect pointing out the lapses in some circles and congratulating other circles which have performed well.

In the debate that followed on 3-12-2022 also, following comrades participated:

1. S Thangaraj, CS Chennai
2. Narender, CS Maharashtra
3. H N Singh, CS Bihar
4. Gyan Singh, Rajasthan
5. K S Koteswara Rao, Andhra
6. Santha Kumar, Tamilnadu
7. T P George, CS Kerala
8. Syamal Rao, Odisha
9. Kamaraj, Tamilnadu
10. R N Singh, CS Jharkhand
11. Veerasamy, Tamilnadu
12. M Govindarajan, Chennai
13. Upendra, CS Telangana
14. V P Kaushik, Haryana
15. T Ramachandran, Kerala
16. S Ramakrishnan, Tamilnadu
17. M Rajasekhara Reddy, Andhra

18. P Venugopal, Tamilnadu
19. Madhu, Telangana
20. Veerapandian, Tamilnadu
21. S G Panicker, Kerala
22. Boopathy, Tamilnadu
23. P Pulla Rao, Andhra
24. K R Rana, CS Gujarat
25. M Munuswamy, Chennai
26. V S Muthukumar, Tamilnadu
27. S Anuradha, Tamilnadu
28. K A Augustine, Kerala
29. R Venkitachalam, Tamilnadu
30. S Krishnamurthy, Chennai
31. Subbarayan, Tamilnadu
32. N Kothandaraman, Tamilnadu
33. V Latha, Tamilnadu
34. J N Dubey, CS UP East
35. Ashok Kumar, UP west
36. G S Bajwa, CS Punjab
37. Kailash Gautam, CS UP West
38. R Changappa, CS, Karnataka
39. S P Tripathi, MP
40. Sivananda, Karnataka
41. Saket Shukla, MP
42. Ganesh Babu, Karnataka
43. M Pathak, OS
44. B P S Chauhan, CS Chhattisgarh
45. R S N Murthy, OS
46. K Muthiyalu, Dy GS
47. J S Dahiya, AGS
48. Syamalendu Bhattacharjee, Assam
49. B N Behera, CS Odisha
50. V Rama Rao, Asst Treasurer
51. V Varaprasad, Dy GS
52. Rajendra Chaudhary, VP
53. J K Tripathy, VP

RESOLUTIONS

Intervening in the debate Com. D Gopalakrishnan explained the difference between Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 and gratuity payable under CCS (Pension) Rules. BSNL retirees got less gratuity compared to other CPSE retirees because they are covered under PG Act 1972. He also

explained about the retirement benefits of other CPSE retirees which are restricted to 30% of pay plus DA. This 30% consists of CPF, Gratuity, Pension & Medical facilities. He categorically told that DoP&PW did not reject the demand of pension revision on the basis of 7th CPC fitment factor quoting DoP&PW's letter dated 8/3/2019 to DoT attaching our letter dated 12/2/2019 addressed to Joint Secretary, Pension asking DoT to examine and the comments thereon may be sent to pension department. He stressed that 'unity' should be on demand and not otherwise. He strongly advocated for 7th CPC fitment factor and 3rd PRC has nothing to do with pension revision. He cited the example of pension revision to Tamilnadu Electricity employees which is in contrast with Tamilnadu State Transport employees. He explained about the pension revision given on the basis of CPC fitment factor on CDA, though their pension initially was fixed on IDA to former Civil Aviation Department employees who were absorbed in NAAI & AAI. He further clarified some points raised by some delegates regarding conversion of IDA pension to CDA pension. Thereafter Com. DG moved the following two resolutions:

RESOLUTION 1

The All India Conference of AIBSNLPWA held at Visakhapatnam on 2nd & 3rd December 2022 under the chairmanship of Com. P S Ramankutty discussed at length the issue of Pension revision from 01-01-2017 for BSNL/MTNL retirees who opted for Government pension on combined service and covered under CCS (Pension) rules 1972/2021. On the basis of deliberations, it is unanimously decided to pursue the demand of Pension revision on the basis of 7th CPC factor on IDA both for pre-2017 and post-2017 retirees. In case of no possibility to get 7th CPC fitment factor on IDA pattern, the Conference authorizes the CHQ to pursue the demand of

Pension revision on the basis of 7th CPC fitment factor by conversion of IDA pension to CDA pension as a second alternative proposal which requires amendment to existing rules.

The Conference directs the CHQ to pursue the court case filed before PB CAT, New Delhi vigorously and engage senior counsel with the concurrence of the existing lawyer irrespective of the cost involved.

[Moved by D Gopalakrishan, Seconded by K R Rana.]

RESOLUTION 2

The All India Conference of AIBSNLPWA held at Visakhapatnam on 2nd & 3rd December 2022 under the chairmanship of Com. P S Ramankutty unanimously decided the following programme of action, in view of the negative attitude taken by DOT on the issue of Pension revision to BSNL/MTNL retirees who opted for Government pension on combined service and covered under CCS (Pension) rules 1972/2021. These pensioners are compelled to resort to agitational programme because the discussion with DOT officers for more than five years did not yield any positive results.

This conference in consultation with likeminded pensioners' associations who are pursuing pension revision from 01-01-2017 on the basis of 7thCPC fitment factor decides Tentative Action Programme;

1. Call Attention Day on 19-12-2022 (Monday). Holding demonstrations before Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi and in all SSA Head Quarters throughout the country. (Timings may be decided locally)

2. Two days Dharna from 10.00 Hrs. to 17.00 Hrs on 17th & 18th January 2023 (Tuesday and Wednesday) at Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi and CCA offices throughout the country.

3. Rally: March to Sanchar Bhavan and all CCA offices throughout the country on 8th February 2023 (Wednesday). Timings can be locally decided.

In case of any exigency arises the CHQ is authorized to change the date in consultation with like minded organizations.

If DOT does not settle the issue of Pension revision as per 7th CPC fitment factor AIC authorizes the CHQ to decide further programme of action in consultation with the likeminded organizations

[Moved by D Gopalakrishnan, Seconded by R N Pada Nair].

Conference approved both the resolutions unanimously with applause.

Summing up by GS

Summing up the debate, Com. Gangadhara Rao told that barring three comrades from Tamilnadu all have appreciated the stand taken by CHQ with regard to Pension revision and supported all actions also. At the same time CHQ shall give due consideration to the views expressed otherwise also. Normally authorities do not discuss the pension revision and related issues with organizations of pensioners. But this time Member(S) has held a meeting with all organizations representing BSNL/MTNL pensioners as directed by the Minister only because of our interaction with the honourable minister. We cannot say if there will be any further discussion. However it is almost sure that DoT will not make any agreement with pensioners organizations. We have to move along with like-minded organizations to get the best from the government. Unity only will bring a desired result. Total unity amongst us is most important. There shall be only one voice from us. Our line of approach is clearly spelt out in the two resolutions adopted now.

CGM Andhra

While GS was addressing Shri Suresh Krishna, CGMT, BSNL Andhra Circle arrived. He was received by Reception Committee with shawl, floral bouquet and memento. The CGMT addressed the conference with few words and greeted all. He greeted his old friends in Karnataka and called them to the dais. A down-to-earth personality Shri Suresh Krishna joined the delegates in the lunch also.

At 1330 hours the House was adjourned for lunch.

Elections

1445 Hrs: House reassembled and President took up the item of election of CHQ office-bearers for next term. A panel proposed by Com. Sundara Krishnan (CS, Tamilnadu Circle) and seconded by Com. T P George (CS Kerala) was received. Since there was no other proposal President Com. P S Ramankutty declared following office-bearers unanimously elected :

President Sh. D Gopalakrishnan, TN

Vice Presidents:

Sh. M R Patnaik, AP
Sh. R S N Murthy, AP
Sh. G Natarajan, Chennai
Sh. P.Gangadhara Rao, KTK
Sh. S G Panicker, Kerala
Sh. J K Tripathy, Orissa
Sh. Atmaram Varma, Punjab
Sh. C B Singh, Rajasthan
Sh. K Muthiyalu, Tamilnadu
Sh. R D Ram, UP (West)

Gen. Secretary: Sh. V Vara Prasad, AP

Deputy GS: Sh. Anupam Kaul, Delhi

Treasurer: Sh. T S Vittoban, Chennai

Asst Treasurer: Smt. V Latha, TN

Asst. General Secretaries:

Sh. M Rajasekhara Reddy, AP
Ms. V Ratna, Chennai
Sh. Ramakant R Varma, Guj.
Sh. R N Singh, Jharkhand
Sh. G Babu, Karnataka
Sh. R N Padanair, Kerala
Sh. Ashok G Nalwade, Mah.
Sh. P Jayaraman, TN
Sh. N Somanadham, TGA
Sh. Mahatma Pathak, UPE

Org. Secretaries:

Sh. P Pulla Rao, AP
Sh. Rajendra Chowdary, BH
Sh. J S Dahiya, Haryana
Sh. C K Hosamani, KTK
Smt. A Savitha, KTK
Smt. A P Saraswathy, Kerala
Sh. B. Arunachalam, TN
Sh. P Venugopal, TN
Sh. A Sudhakar Rao, TGA

President announced that one post is kept vacant for MP circle. Since there is some dispute fresh circle conference will be conducted in MP and thereafter the vacancy will be filled up with nominee from MP. House approved the list with long thunderous applause.

Suddenly, a group of comrades from Andhra came to the stage to congratulate the newly elected General Secretary Com. Vara Prasad with giant size garlands and flowers. They virtually occupied the dais for few minutes shouting slogans and garlanding all the newly elected leaders. Entire Delegates too joined them.

After the jubilant felicitation Com. P S Ramankutty requested new President Com. DG to occupy the Chair. After taking over charge Com. DG suggested that Com. Ramankutty should be nominated as Advisor

and he should continue to be the Editor of Pensioners Patrika. The House approved the proposal.

Auditor:

House unanimously nominated M/s CRS & CO, Chartered Accountants, Chennai as our auditor.

Amendments to the Constitution:

New President then took up the item of amendments to Constitution. After threadbare discussion on each proposal the House unanimously approved the amendments.

{Amended Constitution is published in pages 19-24 of this issue of the Patrika and hence details are not reported here.}

Felicitations:

CHQ then felicitated the District Secretaries of **Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ernakulam** being the largest three district units with 3500, 3200 and 2400 members respectively.

CHQ felicitated **Kolar** (Karnataka) branch which has enrolled **100% retirees of the SSA** as our members. Similarly CHQ felicitated Circle Secretary of **Tamilnadu having the largest membership of 16000.**

Thereafter CHQ felicitated some of the important functionaries of Reception Committee. And the Reception Committee felicitated the volunteers who worked day and night for the successful conduct of the gigantic event.

The All India Conference, making a history, came to end at 1730 hours on 3-12-2022 with National Anthem



EMPHATIC PROTEST: EVERYWHERE

Few photos of widespread protest demonstrations conducted by BSNL/MTNL pensioners, all over India, on 19th December, 2022.









CONSTITUTION OF AIBSNLPWA

[As amended by Visakhapatnam AIC. Effective from 01-01-2023]

1. **Name:**

Name of the Society shall be ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION, hereinafter called the Association.

2. **Jurisdiction:**

The jurisdiction of the Association shall be whole of India.

3. **Headquarters:**

The Headquarters of the Association shall be at the seat of General Secretary, for the time being at H. No 54-19-31, Lakshmi Gokul Enclave, L I C Colony, Vijayawada 520008.

4. **Aims and Objects:** The aims and objects of the Association shall be:

(a) To promote, protect and safeguard the interests and welfare of persons retired from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as well as Department of Telecom and their family members without any political or communal or regional or cadre bias.

(b) To work in unison/coordination with the organizations with similar aims and objects for the overall well-being of the pensioner community in the country.

(c) To work in close and live contact with service organizations of BSNL staff.

(d) To redress the grievances of members of the Association resorting to appropriate action, including legal.

(e) To run journal/journals for projecting the issues concerning BSNL retirees and central government service pensioners in particular and senior citizens in general.

(f) To establish, maintain and run old age

homes etc. for the needy and to undertake such other charitable and welfare activities.

5. **Membership:**

(a) A person retired from BSNL or from Department of Telecom or a family pensioner of BSNL/DOT covered by CCS (Pension) Rules, 1921 only is eligible for membership in the Association. A member has to pay an Admission fee of Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand only) as life Membership subscription. Executive Committee of District Unit has the right to reject application for membership from any person. Spouse of the deceased Life Member shall be eligible to become a Life member, without paying the subscription.

(b) Members in default shall have no right to participate in the meetings or elections without clearing the arrears up to date.

[Note: In case a member shifts his/her residence to another station and wants to join the branch there it shall be permitted by the Secretary of parent branch issuing a Transfer Certificate, on a written request from the concerned member. In such instances the member shall not be required to pay membership again.]

(c) Cessation of Membership: A person shall cease to be a member of the Association by resignation, death , disqualification, insolvency or liquidation or for non-attending without taking leave for absence three consecutive meetings of the general body/ Committee as the case may be. Such member who is disqualified and expelled from the Association can be readmitted as member by the Circle Conference/All India Conference on receiving a formal request

from the concerned person.

6. Eligibility to become Office-bearers:

No person who is not a member of the Association shall be eligible to become office-bearer, including Patron and Advisor, of the Association at any level. Office Bearers of the working unions/Associations are not eligible to become office bearer of the AIBSNLPWA.

7. Organizational Set-up:

The Association shall have the following organizational set-up at the national, circle and district levels:

(a) **National level: All India Conference and Central Working Committee.** The All India Conference shall comprise of the members of Central Working Committee and the delegates from District Units. The All India Conference shall be the Supreme Body of All India BSNL Pensioners' Welfare Association.

The Central Working Committee shall comprise of the following Central Office-Bearers elected by the previous All India Conference and Circle Secretaries:

One President, Vice Presidents, One General Secretary, Deputy General Secretaries Assistant General Secretaries, Organising Secretaries, One Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers. *(Total number shall not exceed 35)*

The CWC shall have the power to appoint Editor of the journal published by the Association and to nominate Patrons or Advisors who shall be the invitees to the committee till the next conference.

(b) **Circle Level: Circle Conference and Circle Executive Committee:**

The Circle Conference shall comprise of the members of Circle Executive Committee and delegates from District Units.

The Circle Executive Committee shall comprise of the following Circle office-bearers elected by the previous Circle Conference and the District Secretaries of the Circle:

One President, Vice Presidents, One Circle Secretary, Assistant Circle Secretaries. Organising Secretaries, One Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

(Total number of above office bearers shall not exceed 25 in Circles having Life membership up to 5000 in previous year, it shall not exceed 30 in Circles having Life membership of 5001-10000 and it shall not exceed 35 in Circles having Life membership of above 10000)

(c) **District Level: General Body and District Committee:**

The District General Body shall comprise of all the members of the Association in the respective district and the members of District Committee. The District Committee shall comprise of the following office bearers elected by the previous district general body:

One President, Vice Presidents, One District Secretary, Asst. District Secretaries, Organising Secretaries, One Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers *(Total number shall not exceed 25)*

The District Unit shall be the base unit of the Association. However, the District Committee can, subject to ratification by the next General Body meeting, form branches for

better and effective functioning of the organization. The branch shall have at least 10 members. The jurisdiction of such branches shall be decided by the District Committee. If there is any dispute about the jurisdiction, it shall be decided by the Circle Executive Committee which shall be final. The subscription collected by the branch shall be remitted to District, Circle and CHQ @ 20%, 20% and 20% respectively in the manner specified in Clause 11.

8(a). **Delegates:**

To All India Conference: Number of Delegates from District Units shall be One Delegate for every 100 members or part thereof.

To Circle Conference: One delegate for every 50 members or part thereof (for Circles having membership of over 10000) One delegate for every 30 members or part thereof (for Circles having membership of over 5000 and below 10000) One delegate for every 20 members or part thereof (for Circles having membership of less than 5000 membership).

To District Conference: One Delegate for every 20 members or part thereof from Branches. If there is no branch in a District all members are entitled to participate in the district conference.

Number of delegates shall be decided on the basis of total Life Members as at the end of previous financial year.

(b). **Voting Strength:** In the Conferences and meetings of Committees, Committee Members and Delegates shall have one vote each, except for the purpose of election of office-bearers. For election of

office-bearers the voting strength shall be as follows:

(i) The voting strength of the CHQ Office-bearers in the All India Conference shall be restricted to 10% of the total voting strength of the Delegates subject to a maximum of one vote for each office-bearer. Circle Secretaries and Delegates shall have one vote each. In case of tie, the person presiding over the meeting shall have casting vote in addition to his normal vote.

(ii) The voting strength of the Circle Office-bearers in the Circle Conference shall be restricted to 10% of the total voting strength of the Delegates subject to a maximum of one vote for each office-bearer. District Secretaries and Delegates shall have one vote each. In case of tie, the person presiding over the meeting shall have casting vote in addition to his normal vote.

9. Duties and Responsibilities of Officebearers:

(i) **President:** He shall have overall supervision of the affairs of the Association at the respective level and shall preside over the meetings.

(ii) **Vice Presidents:** They shall assist the President in his/her functions and one of them shall preside over the meetings in the absence of President.

(iii) **General Secretary:** He shall be the Chief Executive and responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Association. He shall convene the meetings of All India Conference and Central Working Committee. He shall be the custodian of all the properties belonging to the Association at the national level.

(iv) **Deputy General Secretary:** He shall assist the General Secretary in his functioning and shall act as General

Secretary in the absence of the General Secretary.

(v) Assistant General Secretaries: They shall assist the General Secretary in his functioning and shall also discharge other duties assigned to them by the General Secretary. One of them shall act as General Secretary in the absence of General Secretary or Deputy General Secretary. It shall be decided by the President and General Secretary.

(vi) Treasurer: He shall be responsible to maintain the accounts and to present the audited accounts of the Association in the conference. He is the custodian of funds. He shall operate the Bank/Post Office accounts of the Association jointly with the General Secretary. (vii) Assistant Treasurer: He/she shall assist the Treasurer in his functioning and act as Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer.

Note: The duties and responsibilities mentioned above shall be applicable to Office-Bearers at different levels mutatis mutandis.

10. Funds:

Funds of the Association shall be the subscription/donations from the members as well as any financial aid received from the government. The funds shall be deposited in Post Office Savings Bank or in any nationalized bank as fixed by the respective committee and shall be jointly operated by the Secretary and Treasurer. The FD at all levels shall be utilized only with a specific decision with 2/3rd majority of members present in CWC/CEC/DEC meeting, and that too for a specific purpose. Any welfare activity/charity involving collection of donations from members, organized by office-bearers shall be done with specific approval of respective unit.

11. Quota: New allocation shall be :

Out of Rs 1000 collected from a member, Branch shall remit Rs 600 to the District. The District Treasurer shall remit Rs. 200 to CHQ, Rs 200 to Circle. If there is no branch under the District the District Treasurer shall remit Rs 200 each to Circle and CHQ. Branch shall submit its accounts to District Secretary in April every year. District Unit shall submit its accounts to Circle Secretary before June every year. Circle Unit shall submit its accounts to General Secretary before August every year. Branches and Districts should remit the proportionate quota to higher levels within one month from the date of receipt of subscription.

12. Accounting Year:

The Accounting year of the Association shall be from 1st April to 31st March next year.

13. Audit:

The Accounts of the Association shall be audited by a Chartered Accountant at the national level; at other levels either by a chartered accountant or by a person nominated by the respective conference.

14. Meetings:

The Schedule shall be

- (i) All India Conference: Once in three years
- (ii) Central Working Committee meeting: once in a year, virtually or physically
- (iii) Circle Conference: Once in three years
- (iv) Circle Executive Committee Meeting: once in six months, virtually or physically
- (v) District conference: Once in a year but election of office-bearers shall be held once in two years
- (vi) District Committee: as and when required, but at least once in three months.

(vii) Branch Conference : Once in a year

The Notice period shall be

- i) All India Conference : 45 days
- ii) CWC Meeting : 30 days
- iii) Circle Conference : 30 days
- iv) CEC meeting : 15 days
- v) District Conference : 15 days
- vi) District Committee : 10 days

15. Quorum for meetings:

The required quorum for the meetings shall be as follows:

All India Conference: 50% of Central Working Committee Members and one fourth of the Delegates eligible to attend, provided 50% of circles represented.

Central Working Committee: Half of the members of the Committee.

Circle Conference: 50% of Circle Executive Committee members and one third of the Delegates eligible to attend provided 50% of SSA Units represented

Circle Executive Committee: Half of the members of the Committee.

District Conference: 50% of District Executive Committee and one fourth of t members in the District .

Dist Committee: Half of the office-bearers.
Note: Adjourned meeting shall have no quorum limit.

16. Disciplinary Action:

Disciplinary action can be taken against any member of the Association for antinational activities, anti-organizational activities or moral turpitude after issuing notice to the concerned member. The powers vested with authorities at different level for taking disciplinary action shall be as follows:

(a) The District General Body has the power to take any disciplinary action, except expulsion from the primary membership of

the Association, against any member in the District.

(b) The District Committee, in between two meetings of the General Body, has the power to take any disciplinary action, except expulsion from the primary membership of the Association, against any member in the District. Such decision shall be placed before the next General Body meeting for ratification.

(c) The Circle Conference has the power to take any disciplinary action, including expulsion from the primary membership of the Association, against any office-bearer or member in the Circle.

(d) The Circle Executive Committee has the power to take any disciplinary action, except expulsion from the membership of the Association, against any of its members.

(e) The Central Working Committee has, in between two All India Conferences, has the power to take any disciplinary action, except expulsion from the primary membership of the Association, against any member or office-bearer at any level, subject to ratification by the next All India Conference.

(f) The All India Conference has the power to take any disciplinary action against any office-bearer or any member of the Association.

(g) In case any dispute arises in Circle Conference, the General Secretary is authorized to take suitable action to intervene. In case any dispute arises in District conference , the Circle Secretary is authorized to take suitable action to intervene.

Notes:

i) The conference/committee at a particular level shall have no power to take disciplinary action against a person holding

any post of office-bearer of the Association at its higher level.

(ii) Appeal against a disciplinary action shall be filed before the next higher level Conference. The All India Conference shall be the final appellate authority.

17. Strength of the Governing Body:

The minimum number of members in Governing Body at every level shall be fifteen and the maximum shall be thirtyfive. Secret ballot shall be mode of election in case of contest.

18. Term Office and Filling up of vacancy:

The term of the office of Governing Body shall be from Conference to Conference as prescribed in Article 14 of this Constitution. Any vacancy in the governing body due to death, resignation or any other reason shall be filled up by the remaining members of the Body for the balance term.

19. Income not to Revert:

The income of the Association from its property of donations or membership subscription derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association as set out in its Memorandum of Association and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to the persons who at any time are or have been members of the society or any person claiming through any of them.

20. Exclusion of Personal Responsibility:

No member of the Governing Body shall be answerable or personally liable for any

loss arising from the administration or application of the funds and properties of the Association unless such loss or damage is caused through willful default or breach of trust or culpable negligence on his part.

21. Legal proceedings:

The Association may sue or be sued in the name of its General Secretary as required under Section 6 of SR Act of 1955.

22. Affiliation:

The Association shall be affiliated to a national level apex body of Pensioners' Associations, if/as decided by the Central Working Committee.

23. Dissolution:

In case the All India BSNL Pensioners' Welfare Association happens to be dissolved, its assets and funds shall, under any circumstances, not be distributed amongst its members, but shall, after meeting the liabilities, be transferred to any Association/ Organization with similar aims and objects or to the Government, as decided by the All India Conference.

24. Amendment to the Constitution:

This Constitution shall be amended only by the All India Conference supported by two third members present in the Conference. Any such amendment proposed to be moved in the Conference shall be notified at least one month in advance.

25. Interpretation:

The Central Working Committee shall have the power to interpret this Constitution, if needed, keeping in view the aims and objects of the Association.

MODIFICATIONS IN THE REPORT

The Report to AIC was published in advance in Patrika. CWC members and Delegates were requested to give in writing any modifications/ amendments they desire to move. Only Com. Muthiyalu submitted his suggestions in writing. Accordingly, following is added as Para 3d to National Scenario:

“Prices are shooting up. Common man cannot lead a peaceful life. Petrol and gas prices are soaring day by day. 44 labour laws are made four labour codes. Rights earned by sustained struggles are taken away by the new laws. Hire and fire has become the order of the day. Govt itself introduced AgniPath to induce the industrial and corporate to follow. Unemployment growing abnormal. The assurance of 2 crore job every year not implemented. But those who are already in the job are thrown out of job. Peasants waged a struggle for 15 months insisting the govt to withdraw the retrograde laws and to protect the agriculture. The Govt used all methods to suppress the struggle. Atlast government has to agree to the demands.

Demonetisation has created a havoc. Common people including pensioners community suffered a lot. Swiss Bank money has not come to our country whereas its deposit from our country is increasing. In the name of monetization Mines, Ports, Airports, River, Water sill natural resources are sold at lowest rates. Goods and service tax imposed blindly. Several crores of Bank loans written off. Merger of Banks causing problems for pensioners and others. Crores and crores of taxes are reduced to corporates. Whereas more tax imposed on Common people.

Public sector units have contributed much for the growth of our country. But today public sector are sold. Even LIC which has

contributed thousands of crores to the 5 year plans is sold. The county's pride Defence Industries corporatized and works are given to contractors. It is not safe to give Defence equipment's production to private contractors.”

.....
Com. S. Thangaraj, Circle Secretary, Chennai TD wanted modification of para 12j. Hence the said para was modified as:

Secretariat decision

12 j. In this background, Secretariat met at Bengaluru on 8/1/2020. 11 CWC members attended. Since our GS underwent a major surgery, we decided to meet in Bengaluru. We felt the urgency because of the developments with regard to our main demand of 'Pension Revision' and to decide the future course of action. Three CWC members from Karnataka viz. G Babu (VP), Radhakrishna (AGS) and R Changappa (C/S, Karnataka) also participated in the meeting. All the 14 expressed their views frankly about the future course of action. Though Com Sukumaran was absent he firmly felt that we should file the case at the earliest without waiting for next CWC meeting. Pros and Cons were analyzed. Four Secretariat members expressed their view that it is better to wait till next CWC meeting at Gorakhpur to be held in March 2020. However, majority was in favour of filing the case at the earliest. Finally a decision was taken to seek legal remedy by filing a case in Bangalore CAT with a dissenting voice recorded by two Secretariat members.

Out of these two, Com K Muthiyalu, Dy.GS not only recorded his dissent but also told the Secretariat that pension revision follows pay revision which is nothing but endorsing the stand of the officers and MoC.

POST- AIC CWC DECISIONS

As per our tradition, after completion of AIC, available new CWC members met at 1900 hrs on 3rd December 2022 in the same venue under the presidentship of Com D Gopalakrishnan.

Decisions

- Com P S Ramankutty, Advisor shall continue as Editor of Pensioners Patrika
- Com V Vara Prasad, GS shall be included in Editorial Board
- Printing of Pensioners Patrika shall continue from Chennai
- Com G Natarajan, VP shall continue to take-up the responsibility of printing & posting from Chennai
- To implement the agitational programme effectively throughout the country, our members from nearby circles like Haryana, Punjab, UP etc. shall participate in Delhi programme along with MTNL pensioners
- Every CWC member should concentrate to improve the membership and there are scope in many circles like Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP, Rajasthan etc.

GS appealed to everyone to send message to his mobile number, if there is any problem, and not to send in 'group'. He also said that he is prepared to visit the circles if invited. President advised the circle secretaries to arrange Hindi translation if he visits Hindi-belt.

Some suggestions were given to have live-contact with members.

It was emphasized by some comrades to have our CHQ office, preferably in BSNL office on rent and active comrades in Vijayawada should be involved for day-to-day functioning. GS has agreed to explore that possibility.

All including Coms Gangadhara Rao, K Muthiyalu, T S Vittoban assured full cooperation to new General Secretary.

President clearly told that democratic functioning and financial discipline should be ensured at all levels. He also said that some comparatively youngsters are elected in this AIC and they should spare more time to strengthen the organization and visit branches and guide them.





A REAL TREASURER

As General Secretary of a Service Union for 13 years I worked with number of Treasurers in New Delhi. All of them were sincere and dedicated. During the period, I learnt something about accounting and management of union funds. When we receive any remittance from a branch as MO/DD/Cheque; (Now online transfer also)

1. First enter it in a Day Book, showing it as quota/donation/journal subscription
2. Issue a formal Receipt
3. At the end of the month, enter the amount in Cash Book under the each item.
4. Then post it in Ledger Book.
5. Close the account for the month with itemwise totals.
6. At the end of the financial year, prepare a statement of Receipts & Payments.
7. Submit all the documents for auditing.
8. Once audited by Chartered Accountant, we cannot change the item from one to another.

I have observed that our Treasurer Com. Vittoban is doing the work very systematically. He often goes to the bank, cross-check with their entries. He promptly pays the income tax due. He gets the Auditors' report on time. Even after two years, when some Secretary wants to correct the entry, pertaining to a period already audited, Com. Vittoban refuses to do so. That is the duty of Treasurer. We all must appreciate it.

Com. Vittoban is so dedicated, sincere, strict and prompt. That is how AIBSNLPWA has a Fixed Deposit of Rs 2.4 crore now. In future the income will be very less as life membership is already paid by 70000 members. We have to work with the interest accrued on our FD. Com. T S Vittoban knows what financial discipline is. He has to ensure that every payment is essential and justified, every deposit is safe and secure and that the fund is preserved for future functioning. I appreciate Com. T S Vittoban, a man of integrity, dedication and discipline. He is a treasure.

... P S Ramankutty, Outgoing President.

AIC FUND

Before commencement of AIC CHQ received a sum of Rs 24,25,195 as contribution of our branches towards the AIC Fund, @ Rs 50 per member, to conduct the conference with our own resources. The above amount was received on-line and the entire amount was transferred to Reception Committee on-line too. Then, at Visakhapatnam some branches paid their contribution in cash amounting to Rs 23050. That too was also made over to Reception Committee in cash by CHQ Treasurer. In total, a sum of Rs 24,48,245 was received and same amount was made over.



Latest from GS

DELHI VISIT

With the help of Shri N K Gandigwad (OS, Hubli Branch), our President Com. DG, our VP Com. Gangadhara Rao and myself along with Com. M K Bagchi (President, RTOWA), met Hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi in Parliament House on 13-12-2022 and requested his help to resolve the Pension Revision issue. Accordingly his PA fixed the meeting with MoC at 1900 hours.

MEETING WITH MOC

We met Hon'ble MoC Shri Ashwini Vaishnavji and handed over to him a letter containing our demand. We thanked him for taking a decision to delink Pension Revision from Pay Revision. We explained the justification for our demand and requested his intervention for 7th CPC fitment factor. He assured that he will get it examined.

MEETING WITH MEMBER (S)

On 14-12-2022 we met Member (S). He told that Estt Section has asked from CGCA the financial implications for 0%, 5%, 10% and 15%. He also told that though BSNL could not reach an agreement on pay revision they have sent pay scales for Non-executives. Then we told him about our meeting with Hon'ble MoC and handed over a copy of the letter. He assured due consideration.

MEETING WITH DDG (Estt)

We met DDG (Estt) and discussed the following issues:

1. Pension revision: She also told that they have asked for financial implications. We told her that

DoT has not sent the proposal of 2.515 fitment formula for pension department's consideration and there was no occasion for that department to reject it as claimed. When we insisted to send the proposal to pension department and let them give their opinion, she said that she has to take the opinion of higher officers in DOT including Secretary Telecom.

2) Implementation of Madras CAT judgement on extra increment to about 600 Pensioners in Tamilnadu.

3) Reduction of last pay drawn to Telecom Mechanics who were placed in LM scale who did not get posting immediately after training due to want of vacancies in Phone Mechanic cadre pertaining to Tamilnadu, Chennai Telephones and Andhra Circles.

After detailed discussion on both (2 & 3) the above issues, DDG Estt wanted us to forward our last written letter by email and she has agreed to look at it afresh.

IT NOTICES

We met Director (Accounts) regarding IT notices being received by our members for Leave Encashment of DOT period. On his request we supplied all correspondence we had with Secretary of Revenue Department, MOF and Director (HQ) and CBDT. He assured to take up the case with concerned officials.

MEETING WITH LAWYER

We met our Advocate and requested him to ensure that on 6th February 2023 the case is heard. He told that all-out efforts will be taken for that.

V Vara Prasad, GS



Message from Shri B S Murty

Sri. B S Murty (91), Retired Member of Telecom Commission, is now an esteemed member of AIBSNLPWA.

Ayya,
Thank you very much for the invitation to attend the Annual Conference of AIBSNLPWA on the 2nd **December. I was, indeed, delighted because of my long association with DOT for more than 35 years.**

DOT has – a vastness spread all over the entire country, a uniformity of characterization that encompasses all the States and above all, a friendliness with people, a broad heart to overcome selfishness and a philosophy of being always helpful others, which enabled it to work towards our motto: **Service before Self**

All the respectable ladies and gentlemen present here today are a small segment of the vast family. I am very **happy that you are all assembling and reaffirming your commitment to this noble motto.** Possibly, you will also be discussing some of your common issues and problems.

I am aware of one such issue that might be of common concern to you all. This is about Pension Revision. Certainly, errors have crept into this issue and need correction. I understand this is being done. I assure you that I shall do my best to restore justice to all, in the interests of Amity and Best satisfaction to all.

Dear Colleagues,
Today BSNL is in financial troubles. It is heart-rending when I hear this. DOT was a rich milk-cow for Govt. Of India. It was having a very high **Profitability** ratio when I retired. This situation has changed. Sadly, it is topsy-turvy. I am indeed pained at this change and feel obliged to act. This is a national issue and we have to rise to the occasion.

We are all getting pension from DOT/ BSNL. I am one such. I have been working for over 3 months now as to what should be done for restoring DOT **to the status of a **Technical Giant** in the Electronics & IT field.** I am aware some of our **colleagues have brilliant ideas and creative thinking.** I appeal to everyone in AIBSNLPWA to give their thoughts to this National Task of restoring DOT/BSNL to a respectable pedestal. Whosoever has a view or a suggestion as to how to go about, is welcome to get in touch with me for further follow-up.

Thanking you once again,
B S Murty,
Rtd. Member, Telecom Commission.

Number of participants registered in Visakhapatnam AIC.

Andhra	437	Jharkhand	7	Rajasthan	18
Assam	3	Karnataka	134	Tamilnadu	284
Bihar	12	Kerala	85	Telangana	99
Chatisgarh	6	Maharastra	42	UP East	12
Chennai	103	Madhyapradesh	28	UP West	23
Gujarat	19	Odisha	32	CWC	46
Haryana	6	Punjab	39	TOTAL	1435



from bottom of my heart

I write these lines not to bid farewell to you all as I am just changing the seat only. I am with you and I shall be with you all the times.

I am happy that I am relieved from the responsibility of General Secretary. I really feel that I could not do justice to the position I held during the last four years because I had serious health problems. For several months in 2019, I moved with severe pain on my spinal cord. I could attend only few conferences of Kerala, Maharashtra, UP West and Bihar with the problem. Then my condition became worse and I had to take treatment first in Bangalore then in an Ayurveda hospital in Kerala. Since all such treatments did not give any relief I had to undergo a major surgery on spinal cord in December 2019. Again I was bed ridden completely for few months. I could not stand or sit. I had to lie down upside down. Com. PSR, President came to my house in Bangalore twice enquiring about my health. He came also to the hospital at Palakkad. During his visit we decided to issue special appeal for donations towards PMNRF and CMDRF to help the victims of natural calamity in different states. I was not in a position to sign the Appeal. Hence on my request Com. PSR, as President, issued the Circular.

I was pained very much when some senior comrades took objection to the noble work he has done for a noble cause. They raised a technical objection that 'President has taken over charge of GS'. They could not appreciate my problem or the good intention of PSR. Disappointed over the attitude of our own comrades Com. PSR decided not to post any message in whatsapp group thereafter with his name/signature. Though he prepared most of messages all were posted with my name.

Com. DG helped me a lot. He drafted all letters to authorities on Pension Revision and other important matters during these four years. Com. DG goes deep into any issue with wonderful ability and immense patience. But for the help rendered continuously by Com DG and Com. PSR, I could not have given atleast this much results all these years. It was a wonderful experience to work with the two amazing personalities.

I miss words to appreciate the work done by Com. Vittoban our Treasurer. Though he had some misfortunes in the family Com. Vittoban worked perfectly as an ideal custodian of our funds. He is a man of integrity and financial discipline.

Realizing my inabilities I wished to hold the AIC in 2021

itself and make over the charge of GS to someone else. But Covid and Omicron stood in the way.

I laid a foundation for the venue of our next AIC at Visakhapatnam in November 2018 itself. Finally, that has turned out to be a biggest one with wonderful arrangements, flawless care and ever memorable conference in the history of our Association.

Com. Gandigwad, OS Hubli District helped to continue to pursue our Pension Revision issue at highest level in Government with the help of Sri Pralhad Joshiji, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

I am very happy that I could make over the responsibility to Com. Varaprasad, a matured, able and efficient person.

Dear Friends,
I thank you all from bottom of my heart for your support, kindness, cooperation and friendship. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of people. I am confident that you will all continue to do great things, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

**P Gangadhara Rao
Outgoing GS.**



CHHATTISGARH CIRCLE CONFERENCE



HARYANA CIRCLE CONFERENCE



TELANGANA CIRCLE CONFERENCE

PENSIONERS PATRIKA

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President DG



GS Varaprasad



VP Gangadhar



VP Patnaik