

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

[Regd. T 1833/09]

Central Head Quarters

Website: www.bsnlpensioner.in

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

President: P S Ramankutty

General Secretary: P Gangadhara Rao

Phone: 9447551555

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23-03-2020

To
Shri. Arvind Vadnerkar,
Director (HR),
Bharat Sanchar Nigam limited,
New Delhi 110001.

Sir,
Your predecessor, Ms. Sujata Ray, was very sympathetic to the retirees of BSNL, especially on the matter concerning their health and well-being.

BSNL had the best system for reimbursement of medical claims submitted by serving/retired employees. But, due to financial constraints the facility for payment of quarterly medical allowance without voucher was withdrawn in 2011. To mitigate the hardship in submission and following up medical claims by the retired employees, Director (HR) was kind enough to revive the said facility of quarterly allowance without voucher for the retirees vide BSNL order dated 11-4-2017.

Vide another order dated 25-4-2018 the Corporate office instructed all Circles to release the allowance for the period ending on 31-3-2018.

Again, vide BSNL/admn.I/15-22/14 dated 13-7-2018, Corporate office permitted the retired employees of BSNL to opt the said facility of quarterly allowance or reimbursement of outdoor claims with voucher. Most of the retirees opted the facility of allowance as they cannot go to the SSA offices often to settle their medical claims.

Unfortunately the BSNL Circle authorities could not make the payment of said allowance for want of funds, despite many instructions from Corporate Office that such claims from retirees should be given priority. Heads of Circles plead helplessness stating fund is not available.

Some retirees, who opted for the reimbursement of outdoor claims, who are suffering from serious illness like cancer, cardiac, prostrate, kidney problems etc. have submitted their claims. Even after many months the reimbursement is not effected by SSAs/Circles.

Now, in the present grave situation where the entire nation is facing the attack of Covid19, senior citizens the vulnerable section, cannot go to hospitals for treatment. We have received reports that some

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BSNL retirees, unable to continue the routine dialysis for want of money, died. Others who opted for 'without voucher scheme' are not getting allowance too. If anybody wants to migrate to CGHS they have to go through very intricate procedure and pay a huge amount as premium. Most of those retired from Group C and D cadres cannot afford it. Field offices are not able to reimburse the one time payment of premium though there are instructions.

In this background, we request you sir, to kindly review the matter and

- a) *Allot sufficient funds to Circles to make payment of quarterly allowance to retirees up to date.*
- b) *Allot funds and ensure settlement of all medical claims submitted by retirees who opted outdoor treatment with voucher scheme.*
- c) *Simplify the procedure for migration from BSNLMRS to CGHS by Retirees, by BSNL making payment to CGHS directly, so that the aged persons need not go through the complicated procedure.*

We are sure that you will continue the sympathetic attitude towards senior citizens. We request you to kindly issue suitable instructions to field offices ensuring an effective, hassle-free medical care for the people who had given their lives for the development of Telecom infrastructure in our country.

Yours faithfully,

P. Gangadhara Rao,
General Secretary.