

7 years of AIBDPA

- A new perspective and approach in pensioners organizations.

All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association was formed in New Delhi on 21-10-2009 and will be celebrating its 7th Foundation Day all over the country with enthusiasm. The vision of the organization approved by the formation convention is being implemented with utmost commitment. The functioning of AIBDPA during these seven years have done justice to its main perspective.

AIBDPA has remained part and parcel of the working class movement in the country by supporting all the national strikes waged by the central trade unions raising genuine demands of the workers and the people at large including the last glorious strike of September 2, 2016. It has also taken care to maintain good relationship with the BSNL employees organizations both executive and non-executive by participating in all the agitations conducted by Forum of BSNL Unions/ Associations and United Forum of BSNL Non- Executive Employees unions demanding revival of BSNL and settlement of the genuine demands of the workers. This has immensely contributed in settling the important demands of the pensioners, particularly pension revision for the pre 2007 BSNL pensioners, 78.2% IDA fixation to BSNL pensioners and annulment of 60:40 condition for payment of pensionary benefits to the BSNL pensioners.

Most importantly it is the path of agitation and waging continuous struggles for the settlement of just demands of pensioners which created great enthusiasm among the retirees to make all these struggles grand success even beyond our expectation. AIBDPA has conducted seven country wide struggles including the historic Sanchar Bhawan March on 20-11-2014 demanding 78.2% IDA fixation. No doubt this new approach of AIBDPA has its reflection on other pensioners organizations also and this will help in strengthening the mainstream of pensioners movement in the country and pave way for joint struggles.

We could achieve the major demands of the pensioners, pension revision for pre 2007 pensioners, 78.2% IDA fixation to BSNL pensioners retired before 10-06-2013 and annulment of 60:40 condition only through the struggles conducted by AIBDPA and Forum of BSNL Unions/ Associations including two strikes on 27-11-2014 by United Forum and 21,22 April, 2015 by Forum which were very crucial in settling these vital demands.

Now we have to focus on other demands like option one (pension parity) and increase of monthly medical allowance for the DoT pensioners, Restoration of quarterly medical allowance to the BSNL pensioners, Anomaly in pension, Reduction of rent for the quarters, calculation of one extra increment granted in lieu of Gr. IV promotion for pension, Extension of broadband concession to DoT retirees etc. The onslaught of the government to curtail and deny the pension for which PFRDA bill is enacted has to be dealt with all the seriousness it deserves. The decision of the NCCPA to convene a National Convention of all the workers organizations and pensioners movement in this regard is a welcome step.

So Comrades, let us affirm and rededicate ourselves to strengthen our organization to continue the fight against all the injustices and for the settlement of our genuine demands.

Revolutionary Foundation Day Greetings to all.