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CCA Office Hunger Dharna on 12-02-2020 demanding Pension Revision.



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Corona and Senior Citizens.

Covid -19 is here. The Corona virus which started from Wuhan city in China in the first week of December 2019 has spread all over the world within six months and its dangerous journey continues without break. It reached India through a medical student returned to Kerala from Wuhan on 30th January 2020. As on today (5th June 2020) 67, 75,101 has been tested positive for Covid worldwide with 3, 95,620 deaths. In India, persons tested positive are 2, 36,001 and dead 6,649. US top the list with positive and dead.

No vaccine or medicine has been discovered so far to prevent or cure the virus, despite the fact that scientists and medical professional of almost all countries are on the job. It is also reported that corona may not disappear quickly.

Lock Down was declared by government of India from 23 March,2020 and will continue till 30th June 2020, though some relief will be there from 8th June, 2020 except in the Hot and critical zones. The period of Lock Down has been extremely difficult, but there was no other way to stop spread of the virus. Social distancing, cleaning of hands with soap or sanitizer, wearing mask, staying at home – all these were advised to break the chain of the pandemic. The World Health Organisation as also government of India has issued necessary instructions in the matter.

The Corona virus is spreading day by day in our country so alarmingly and World Health Organization has warned of slipping to out of control. The Covid period saw the biggest migration in India since 1947 partition. The sudden declaration of lockdown by the Prime Minister put the migrant workers to disarray and were stranded unable to go to their native states. Lakhs of migrant workers are reported going to their own villages from other states where they are working. Losing their jobs and no wages, they have no other way but to return to their own places to look after their families. The tragedy of these migrant workers is beyond description. Many have died on the way due to hunger and exhaustion. Some have died by trains passing over them while sleeping on the railway tracks. Though some trains have started running, many of these poor workers are unable to bear the cost and continue their journey on foot.

The Central Government has declared certain economic packages, but that is too inadequate and is mostly in favour of the big business and corporates, including tax relief. There is no major relief to the poor, except some increase in the funds for MNREGA. Much more is to be done. In contrast, the Kerala LDF government has faced the epidemic with caution and maximum preparation. Thanks to the strong primary health care system, the Government hospitals were prepared for Covid patients with full arrangements and sufficient health workers including Doctors, Nurses, cleaning staff and others. Testing was done on a massive scale to find out those positive for the virus. Free rations and provision kits were supplied to all families. Migrant workers, who are called 'Guest Workers' in the state, were provided with

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accommodation and free ration. Patients are given free treatment. Various sections of workers and others who could not earn during this period were paid relief @ of Rs. 1,000. Now, opening of schools are likely to be delayed and the education department has started on line classe from 1st June,2020 although on experimental basis. People coming from other states and foreign countries are provided with free quarantine, test and treatment. We express our appreciation of the role model implemented by Kerala LDF government which helped to contain the spread of Covid-19 to a large extent. This is not a small achievement when the most developed countries like USA, UK, France etc. are struggling with highest number of infected and dead. Naturally Kerala has earned global acclaim.

Senior citizens, especially those above 65, children below 10 and those suffering from major ailments are more prone to the virus, since their immunity is weak. They have been advised to stay at home and not to move outside even during unlock -1 period. But the central government has not provided any special relief to the aged to pass over the crisis barring repeated lip services by the Prime Minister. The pensioners are in the same situation.

It is cruel on the part of the Central government to freeze the DA of the central employees and pensioners in the present critical period. It should be withdrawn forthwith and DA paid to the employees and pensioners. With the solid support of the central

government, some of the state governments, under the cover of Covid-19, are suspending and diluting the labour laws even increasing the working hours from 8 to 12.

As far as the BSNL pensioners are concerned, the management has issued orders reducing the medical allowance as also outdoor reimbursement limit. This is nothing but inhuman. We demand that it should be restored and medical bills and medical allowance pending for the last many months paid immediately. Last, but not the least, we want to thank the health workers including Doctors, Nurses and others, who have done excellent work during these difficult times treating the patients, even with maximum risk to their own life.

We also thank the thousands of BSNL – DOT pensioners, who on the call of the CHQ AIBDPA has contributed liberally to the PM CARES FUND / Chief Ministers Distress Relief Fund during this period. We also congratulate the pensioners for their liberal donation on the call of CHQ to help the BSNL contract workers who are in distress due to non-payment of wages and retrenchment.

Let us face the pandemic with all alert and safeguards. At the same time, let us also keep in mind that this situation may continue for some more time and we have to cope with the same. Surely, we shall overcome the present crisis sooner or later. ■

AIBDPA Kerala Circle donates Rs.38 lakhs to Kerala Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Kerala Circle, AIBDPA, has donated Rs.38,15,973 to the Kerala Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) as on 13-06-2020 and is continuing. SSA wise details of donations collected; Kannur- Rs.9,69,220 Kozhikode- Rs.6,41,285 Thiruvananthapuram- Rs.5,06,000 Ernakulam- Rs.4,09,977 Alappuzha- Rs.3,23,234, Kolam- Rs.3,03,500 Thrissur- Rs. 1,76,312 Kottayam- Rs.1,41,500 Malappuram- 1,24,834 Palakkad- Rs.1,23,611 and Pathanamthitta- Rs.96,500.

The amount was collected and paid to CMDRF as per the call of the AIBDPA (CHQ) in the COVID-19 situation to collect donation and pay to PMDRF or CMDRF.

During the floods in Kerala last year, similar donations were made by AIBDPA.

Despite the difficulty in collecting during the Covid situation, the district secretaries ensured that maximum collection is made. It is also to be mentioned here that the BSNL retirees have not been granted Pension Revision for the last three years which is due from 01-01-2017.

Congratulations to Kerala Comrades and Circle Secretary Com. Guruprasad for the best efforts in contributing to the Fund.



Congratulations- Protest day on 12-03-2020, in lieu of Parliament March a spectacular success.

Comrades, it was a difficult decision we had to take, postponement of the Parliament March on 12th March, 2020, after completing all the preparations. CHQ had arranged accommodation to all the comrades coming from far off circles. Invitations were sent to address the March to all the important AUAB leaders, Com.Tapan Sen, General Secretary, CITU, Com.P.R Natarajan MP and Com.Benoy Viswam MP etc. Press Release was also issued highlighting the issue and the negative stand of the government. Thousands of our comrades had booked their to and fro tickets to participate in the Parliament March enthusiastically. No doubt, the Parliament March would have been the biggest event not only in the history of AIBDPA but also the entire pensioners movements in the country.

The first challenge came in the form of communal riots in some parts of Delhi and there were compulsions for the postponement. But CHQ took a firm stand against the postponement and later it was proved to be correct. But the growing threat of the deadly corona virus, which has been declared as a

pandemic, is something different and we cannot risk the lives of thousands of participants who are all aged and some ailing also. The mental tension of the family members of the participants also warranted due consideration. It was in this background that CHQ took the decision to defer the programme.

Considering the unprecedented response of the pensioners all over the country to the 4 phased agitational programme, we decided that a Protest Day be organised at SSA levels on the same date of the proposed Parliament March. It was necessary to keep up the tempo and the call has been responded massively by holding Dharna/ Demonstration with encouraging participation despite the threat of Corona virus. In Kerala, where more corona cases are reported and the State government deciding against travel and gatherings, exemption was given to skip the programme.

CHQ heartily congratulate all the leaders who took the initiative to hold the programme within a short notice and all the participants for their enthusiastic participation.

Freezing of DA/DR - Delhi High Court rejects the case on technical ground.

Hon'ble Delhi High Court has rejected petition filed against impounding of DA/DR from 01-01-2020 to 31-07-2021 on technical ground, quoting the All India Services (Dearness Allowance) Rule of 1972. But the fact remains that there is no relevance of the 1972 rule after the government issued order implementing the recommendations of 5th CPC granting full (100%) neutralisation of rise in price of essential commodities or Consumer Price Index. According to this order issued by Department of Expenditure vide No.50 (1) IC/97 Annexure Part A 2, it was ensured that the DA was to be paid twice in an year based on AICPI and the government has no right to deny, reduce or impound the DA/DR. Of late the 7th Pay Commission report to continue with existing formula and methodology was accepted by the government vide Department of Expenditure order No.1-2/2016-IC V. Unfortunately, the petitioners failed to bring this vital point to the notice of the hon'ble High Court and the High Court has stated in its verdict that no other orders other than that of 1972 was brought to its notice.

Pension Revision unduly delayed.

Granting pension revision to BSNL retirees w.e.f. 01.01.2017 is delayed for more than three years. There has been no increase in pension for last 13 years except increase of due DA. (It is also being denied to a section of pensioners).

Many pensioners have passed away since 2017 without getting their pension revision. Centre continuously speaks about the need to look after the aged people, especially during Covid 19. After meeting more than 200 Members of Parliament including Central Ministers by AIBDPA leaders, many of the concerned M.P.s have raised the matter in Parliament and also with Prime Minister.

It is unfortunate that the govt. is sitting tight on the issue without issuing orders. There is no other way but to continue our efforts as also struggles.

We demand the government to issue orders on Pension Revision with 15% fitment without any further delay.



Destroying BSNL, one more time.

A very educative and truthful narrative being faced by BSNL, its workers and people.

[Article in Business Line by Shri Thomas K. Thomas. Updated on April 30, 2020.]



Objections to the telco's 4G tenders are reminiscent of the past. But this time, BSNL cannot afford to lose its chance of survival.

State-run telecom company BSNL recently got a new lease of life after the Centre pumped in about ₹ 70,000 crore to revive it. It's not even six months since this relief package was announced, and there is already an attempt to scuttle the dying telecom company's revival plans.

On March 23, BSNL floated a new tender to procure 4G equipment in a bid to expand its mobile broadband network. The contract, valued at nearly ₹ 9,000 crore, included upgradation of 50,000 sites across the country that would position the telecom company to offer high-speed Internet access to its users. This project is crucial for the company, as it is already four years behind private telecom companies including Reliance Jio and Airtel in launching 4G services.

Deployment issue.

So far, BSNL has been offering 2G and 3G services, thereby losing out on the opportunity to earn higher revenues from 4G customers. To plug this gap, the Centre decided to allocate 4G spectrum to BSNL this year and the company was quick to float the tender to award a comprehensive contract for planning, engineering, supply, and maintenance of its 4G network.

Just when things were looking to be on track, the tender for purchasing the equipment came under scrutiny from the Ministry of Commerce, after an industry body raised concerns. On April 15, the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) sent a letter to various government departments, including the Ministry of Communications and the Prime Minister's Office, alleging that the tender conditions set by BSNL

flouted procurement rules under the 'Make in India' policy, and was heavily in favour of multinational companies. TEPC is an industry association representing domestic telecom equipment manufacturers such as Tejas Networks, Sterlite, HFCL, and Vihaan Networks.

In the letter, TEPC said that since public money was being used to revive BSNL, domestic suppliers of network equipment should be encouraged to participate in the tendering process. But they could not participate because, according to them, BSNL has set stiff conditions for bidders — including the requirement of having previous experience of setting up a mobile network for at least 20 million subscribers. It has also raised the national security angle, as if to suggest that equipment supplied by non-Indian entities could expose BSNL's network to snooping.

BSNL has now been told to rework the tender after the Ministry of Commerce intervened. This means further delays. Meanwhile, Airtel has awarded a \$1-billion contract to Finland's Nokia for supplying 4G network equipment. No one has raised any security concerns on this deal.

It seems that lessons from the past, which ruined BSNL, have not been learned.

Past experience.

Cut to 2008, when the Indian cellular market was at the cusp of exponential growth with 6-10 million new mobile users every month. Bharti Airtel was the top operator with 57 million users, followed by Vodafone-Essar at 41 million. BSNL, with 33.7 million users, decided to up the ante and announced an audacious plan to increase its network capacity



by 94 million new lines at an investment of \$10 billion, making it the world's largest telecom equipment contract at that time. But then, allegations of irregularities in the tendering process hit the project.

Two years later, in 2010, the entire project was scrapped, dealing a crippling blow to BSNL's expansion plans. Without adequate capacity to meet the growing demand for mobile phones, BSNL was pushed to the fifth spot after Airtel, Reliance Communications, Vodafone Essar and Idea Cellular.

BSNL's revenues were nearly ¹ 40,000 crore in March 2007, while Airtel's revenues were only ¹ 18,420 crore. By 2009, BSNL's profits had nosedived 81 per cent and revenues fell 6 per cent even as Airtel's revenues grew by over ¹ 10,000 crore during 2008-09 and its profits increased to ¹ 7,859 crore. The destruction of BSNL started when it was denied to go through with the 94-million-line contract.

Unfair burden.

The latest tender for 4G equipment is more crucial than the 2G rollout in 2008. Then BSNL was still profitable then; now, it is fighting for survival. Rolling out 4G services quickly could still give the PSU a chance at cornering the market share in rural areas, where private players are just about launching services. If it has to compete with the likes of

Reliance Jio and Airtel, then there has to be a level playing field.

It will be unfair to ask only BSNL to buy local 4G equipment, which is largely untested, and let private players run on equipment supplied by global giants like Nokia and Ericsson. If network security is an issue, then why should it only be relevant for BSNL? More than 90 per cent of mobile users in the country are on private operators' network, and almost 100 per cent of these networks are supplied by foreign companies, including Chinese vendors.

The fact is that Indian players do not have experience in managing large mobile networks. While some of them may have developed 4G technology, there has been no large-scale deployment on these platforms, so the quality standards have not been tested. BSNL cannot afford to have another failed network deployment.

That is not to say that Indian manufacturers should not be encouraged. Companies such as Tejas, Sterlite, and AkshOptifibre have developed top expertise in specific areas of telecommunication networks. The Centre should do more to support Indian manufacturing companies in a manner that's fair to all stakeholders in the industry.

But the burden of propping up domestic manufacturers cannot be put on BSNL alone, in a highly competitive telecom market. ■

Centre writes off Rs. 68,000 crore loans of big sharks.

To an RTI, the Reserve Bank of India had replied that the central government has written off Rs. 68,607 crore loans of 50 defaulters including Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi, Mehul Choski, Yogi Ramdev, etc. The first three are facing charges of money laundering and other cases and have escaped to foreign countries.

When crores of people are facing the biggest financial and other crises due to Covid-19, the government is supporting the law breakers and crorepatis. It is pertinent that the govt. refused to divulge the matters in Parliament, but now the RBI was compelled to spell out due to RTI.

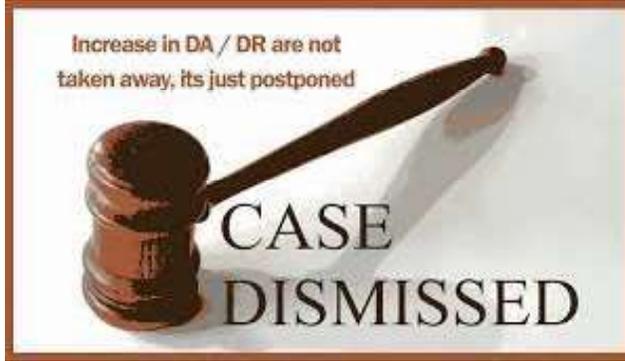
What is the major concern of central govt., the hundreds of crorepatis and law breakers or crores of common people ?

Curtailed of TU rights and benefits by BJP state governments.

Some of the states like U.P., M.P and Gujarat, ruled by BJP and states like Rajasthan ruled by the Congress are denying/curtailing the trade union rights and social benefits like EPF, ESI etc. utilising the COVID period. The centre is thinking of increasing the working hours from 8 to 12 hours as demanded by the corporates and big business. An all-out attack on the working class is on the agenda of the BJP governments. The Central Trade Unions have expressed their strong protest.

We express our strong protest and demand the governments not to curtail the rights of the workers. It is welcome in this scenario that the Labour Minister of Kerala has announced that there will be no curtailment of TU rights in Kerala.





Central Govt. has the power to postpone DA and DR hike

-Says Delhi High Court.

Honourable Delhi High Court in its Judgement, dismissing the plea against freezing DA and DR, observed that the Central Government has the Power to postpone the DA and DR hike.

A plea was filed in Honourable Delhi High Court against the Government Order freezing DA and DR. The Honourable High Court has dismissed this plea as the Court didn't find any merit in this petition.

Increase in DA / DR are not taken away, its just postponed.

Further the Honourable High Court stated that the said Finance Ministry Order has not taken away the increase in DA or DR it is just Postponed, "With regard to increase of 4% Dearness Allowance or Dearness Relief with effect from 01.01.2020 is concerned, the impugned Office Memorandum does not seek to take it away. All that it does is to postpone its payment till after 01.07.2021. That power, in our view, resides with the Central Government, by virtue of Rule 3 of the All India Services (Dearness Allowance) Rule, 1972, since the Central Government is empowered to take the decision to make payment of Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief, subject to such conditions as the Central Government may specify from time to time."

No statutory rule to enhance the Dearness Allowance or Dearness Relief at regular intervals.

Delhi High Court referred the All India Services (Dearness Allowance) Rules, 1972 and observed the following.

"These statutory rules have been framed by the Central Government after consultation with the Government of the States concerned in exercise of powers conferred by Sub Section (1) of Section 3 of All India Services Act, 1952. Rule 3 of the said Rule is relevant, and which reads as follows:

"3. Regulation of dearness allowance: Every member of the Service and every officer, whose initial pay is fixed in accordance with sub-rule (5) or sub-rule (6A) of rule 4 of the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954 or sub-rule (5) of rule 4 of the Indian Police Service (Pay) Rules, 1954 or sub-rule (6) of rule 4 of the Indian Forest Service (Pay) Rules, 1968, shall be entitled to draw dearness allowance at such rates, and subject to such conditions, as may be specified by the Central Government, from time to time, in respect of the officers of Central Civil Services, Class I." (emphasis supplied) From the above Rule, it would be seen that Central Government servants shall be entitled to draw Dearness Allowance "at such rates, and subject to such conditions, as may be specified by the Central Government, from time to time, in respect of officers of the Central Civil Service, Class I"

The above rule shows that the entitlement to draw Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief is determined by the Central Government. The same may be specified by the Central Government from time to time, subject to whatever conditions the Government may deem fit to impose.

There is no vested right in the Central Govt Employees and Pensioners to receive higher DA and DR on Regular Intervals.

The Court finds that there is no vested right in the Central Govt Employees and Pensioners to receive higher DA and DR on Regular Intervals. The High court Stated,

" From the above Rule, it is clear to us that, firstly, there is no statutory rule which obliges the Central Government to continue to enhance the Dearness Allowance or Dearness Relief at regular intervals i.e. to revise the same upwards from time to time. Consequently, there is no vested right in the Central Government Employees, or Central Government



Pensioners to receive higher Dearness Allowance or Dearness Relief on regular intervals. Pertinently, by the impugned Office Memorandum, the Central Government has frozen – and not withdrawn, the Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief being paid to Central Government Employees and Central Government Pensioners at the time of issuance of the said Office Memorandum.”

There is no obligation in law to disburse the increase in DA/DR within a time bound manner.

The Delhi High Court observed that there is no obligation in Law upon central Government to disburse the increase in DA and DR within time bound manner. See the following observation, “ So far as

the right to receive the increase of Dearness Allowance/ Dearness Relief already declared by the Government with effect from 01.01.2020 is concerned, it falls well within the domain of the Central Government to decide as to when to disburse the said increase. There is no obligation in law upon the Central Government to disburse the increase in Dearness Allowance/ Dearness Relief within a time bound manner. Rule 3 of All India Services (Dearness Allowance) Rules referred to above, itself empowers the Central Government to lay down the conditions subject to which Dearness Allowance may be drawn by officers of Central Government.”

For the aforesaid reasons the Court finds no merit in this petition and the same is, accordingly, dismissed. ■

Donation to Contract Workers’ Relief Fund from AIBDPA West Bengal, CTD, CORTO and Telecom Stores.

Com. Sanjib Banerjee, Circle Secretary, AIBDPA, CTD Kolkata, has informed that Rs.2,45,000 has been collected from the circle including Rs.50,000 from the Circle Office Branch toward Relief Fund.

Com. Pijush Chakraborty, Circle Secretary, AIBDPA, West Bengal has intimated that Rs.6,13,500 has been collected towards Contract Workers Relief Fund from both West Bengal and CORTO. This includes the collection taken by CORTO, in the various districts of West Bengal, like Bankura, Purulia, Burdwan, Durgapur, Asansol etc. CORTO Circle Committee has also decided to donate Rs.20,000 to the Contractual Labour Union. Collections also will be made to from CORTO, CTD for the relief Fund.

Com. AdhirKr.Sen, Circle Secretary, AIBDPA, Telecom Stores, has intimated that Rs.25,000 will be donated from AIBDPA Telecom Stores, West Bengal to Contractual labour union.

This consolidated list has been forwarded by Com. D.Basu, Circle Secretary, CORTO and Assistant. General Secretary, AIBDPA (CHQ).

Hearty Congratulations and Thanks to the AIBDPA circles Unions of West Bengal, CTD, CORTO and Telecom Stores!

Congratulations Tamil Nadu Comrades ! Rs.10,53,900 collected for Contract Workers Relief Fund !

As per the call of AIBDPA CHQ to collect donations to Contract Workers Relief Fund, AIBDPA districts of Tamil Nadu had dedicatedly collected funds and the total amount received up to 17.04.2020 is Rs.10,53,900 (Rs. Ten Lakh fifty-three thousand and nine hundred only). The amount is being disbursed to the contract workers at district levels, mostly in kinds jointly with BSNLEU. The collections district wise is given below:-

- (1) Vellore – Rs.2,00,250
- (2) Coimbatore – Rs.1,40,000
- (3) Erode – Rs.1,44,150
- (4) Thoothukudi – Rs.1,22,000
- (5) Tirunelveli – Rs.77,000
- (6) Cuddalore – Rs.71,000
- (7) Pondicherry – Rs.60,800
- (8) Chennai – Rs.48,900
- (9) Coonoor – Rs.45,000
- (10) Nagercoil – Rs.38,000
- (11) Tiruchy – Rs.24,300
- (12) Kumbakonam – Rs.12,000
- (13) Salem – Rs.5,000
- (14) Madurai – Rs.65,500.

This information was given by Com.N. Kuppuswami, Circle Secretary, AIBDPA, Tamil Nadu Circle.





AIBDPA Pensioners' March to Parliament on 12.03.2020.

Ananta Kumar Bhattacharjee, President, AIBDPA

Chalo Delhi: 15% increase of pension w.e.f. 01.01.2017 is denied even after mass hunger strike programme as decided by Guwahati CEC. As such, the March to Parliament programme was decided to be organised on 12th March 2020. Responding to the call about 20 circle unions prepared to come to Delhi with a contingent of 150 each with a total of about 3,000. All the old aged people prepared to take part as Minister-in-charge, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad told in the Parliament that pension is related with wages. That is on the plea of non-profit BSNL workers are denied wage increase – and therefore pension increase also is to be denied – this is contrary to the assurances given by government at the formation of BSNL.

The absorbed employees were assured of better prospect and necessary amendment in Rule 37A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 was incorporated to ensure pension from the government to the BSNL absorbed employees. Unfortunately, most of the promises were violated and BSNL had to incur losses due to the anti-PSU policy of the government. At the later stage, the naked pro-Reliance Jio stand which is instrumental for the distress of the entire telecom industry. Denial of wage revision is unjust as also pension revision and hence aged people taking part to reflect the serious discontentment of the pensioners.

Due to Covid 19, the well planned Parliament March was postponed, but demonstrations were held all over the country as called by the AIBDPA CHQ.

VRS-2019 – Unfortunately imposed: BSNL Employees' Union had led many united

struggles against VRS during the past 19 years. However, the Unions and Associations of BSNL could not adopt a unified approach when VRS was actually implemented. Some organisations openly supported the VRS-2019. This is also one reason for the exodus of a large number of employees on VRS. AIBDPA with limited way propagated the BSNLEU line.

AIBDPA - An appeal to VRS Retirees: We welcome the retirees to join AIBDPA, the mighty Organisation of BSNL DoT Pensioners. We do not hesitate to launch agitation when it is warranted to achieve the genuine demand of the pensioners. We are for the protection of BSNL and join all the struggles being waged by the AUAB. We cordially invite you to come and join AIBDPA and be proud of being part of the mighty organisation. Be assured that you will be secure with us.

Withdraw the CAA (Citizenship Amendment Act): Both the Prime Minister and Home Minister stated that the CAA will not affect the Indian Muslim in anyway. Then why today, i.e., 28th February, 2020, Delhi Police have set up Special investigation teams to look into all cases related to the riots in the Capital – Delhi have claimed 46 lives so far. There is no mechanism to convey the message of the Prime Minister and those demanding withdrawal of CCA being victim of the supporters of the party in power. We, the part of the working class, have to participate in the demand for withdrawal of CCA and NRC to prove withdrawal of undue Act CCA and NRC.

After India getting Independence in 1947, leaders of the freedom movement took much care to create the Indian Constitution. The



various princely states, which till then remained divided on the basis of religion, caste, economy, language and race were brought together and the Indian Union was created. Laws were enacted to ensure that the government treats each and every citizen equally and without any discrimination. Thus, India was born as a secular nation. Many changes have come in the past 70 years. Despite all these changes, India continues to be a strong secular nation and we have to stand for defending secular line.

The Citizenship Amendment Act was passed in the parliament to grant citizenship to those Hindu, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi refugees coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. They are covered by the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955.

What is the necessity to create an NRC and to issue a National Identity Card, when Aadhar Identity Card has already been issued to the people. This involves huge expenditure for the Govt. Further, the poorest sections of the population, such as migrant workers, Adivasis living in remote areas and other migrant communities will be affected.

Those who are fighting against Citizenship Amendment Act have correctly linked it to the National Population Register. Both the CAA and the NRC are interconnected. The process of creating the NRC will create a communal divide in the country. The unity of the people, particularly the unity of the working people will be jeopardized. We have to stand against this dividing line and the task will be to associate with the section of people's attempts to put in place the NPR and NRC should be defeated.

Supreme Court condemned Department of Telecom for shielding Private Telecoms: Supreme Court Bench consisting of Justices Arun Misra, S. Abdul Nazeer and MR Shah

ordered that private telecom companies should pay an amount of Rs.1.47 lakh crore as license fee dues and that amount should be paid within three weeks. However, even after nearly 4 months, these private Cos have not paid even a penny.

What angered the Court most was that the Department of Telecom, which should have taken stringent steps to collect the dues from private companies had not only failed in its duty, but had also facilitated the private companies to dodge the payment. The Court became furious to know that on January 23, 2020 the Department of Telecommunications had issued a direction to the Accountant General not to insist on any payment pursuant to the order passed by the Supreme Court and also not to take any coercive step till further orders. Referring to the direction given to the Accountant General, Justice Arun Misra remarked, "There is so much money power here, I am very anguished. I feel I should not work in this Court in this system."

In 1995 licenses were issued to the private companies to provide telecom services. As per the license condition, the private telecom companies should pay a fixed payment, as license fee amount, as license fee. However, from 1995 to 1999 the private telecom companies did not pay their fees. The accumulated license fee arrears ran into thousands of crores of rupees. In 1999 Atal Behari Vajpayee waived the entire license fee arrears.

Further, in the place of a fixed license fee model, Vajpayee introduced the revenue earning sharing model. According to this the private telecom companies have to pay a percentage of their revenue earning as license fee. Subsequently, it was reduced to 13 percent and ultimately fixed at 8 percent. This policy has today led the Supreme Court lashes out at Govt. for shielding private telecom companies. ■





P&T Trade Union Movement in India - 18

***Federal Council at Vijayawada, 9-14 May 1970
- KG Bose elected President.***

V.A.N. Namboodiri, Advisor, AIBDPA

There were serious differences in the Federation about the casual way, which leaders like D.Gnaniah and O.P.Gupta dealt with the issue of vacation of victimization and on the demands of the employees. They tried to convince the workers that leniency will be shown by the government and there is no need for continuous struggles. The workers could not accept such a reformist and compromising stand. Struggles took place in Kerala and other affected areas, which was discouraged by these leaders. Further, after S.K.Vyas became the Secretary General of the Confederation, O.P. Gupta and his group started creating problems for the Confederation. O.P.Gupta tried to dislodge K.Adinarayana from the General Secretary post of P.IV union. All these created much anger against OPG & Co. in NFPTE.

It was in such a situation that the Federal Council was held at Vijayawada from 9th to 14th August 1970. The Reception Committee belonged to Gupta group and they were interested in providing all facilities to them only. Both the groups tried to strengthen their own groups. Fierce battle became inevitable.

D.Gnaniah and O.P.Gupta, in their anxiety to get majority did a lot of mischief to reduce the strength of the other side. K.G.Bose, who was duly elected as Federal Councilor in the E.III All India Conference at Gauhati, was arbitrarily removed from the list by OPG, General Secretary of the union. In addition, fake disputes were created in P.III and P.IV Unions. OPG group tried to keep away the Federal Councilors of R.III and P.IV from the council, who were solid supporters of KG Bose group, on some pretext or other.

Before the Council, Central Working Committee meetings of all the Unions were held. The vacancies in the Federal Councilors in each union were filled up.

When the meeting of the Federal Council started, OP Gupta group, well knowing that they do not have majority, tried to block the Federal Councilors of R.III and P.IV, but the President took a stand that if the unnecessary dispute continues, he will leave. This

brought sense to the disruptors and the house was composed by the President.

After heated discussion and debate on Pay Commission, victimization and other issues, the time came for the election of Office-bearers. Two panels were received, one from OPG group and the other from KG Bose group. Since nobody withdrew their candidature, election was conducted.

For the post of President, there was contest between Mohan Dharia M.P. and K.G.Bose. K.G.Bose was elected with 66 votes against 56 for Mohan Dharia. R.S.Yadav and R.Muniratnam were elected as Vice-Presidents. A.S.Rajan won the Secretary General post having got 62 votes, while D.Gnaniah got 60 votes. Both the post of Secretary and Treasurer were not contested and R.P.Chatterjee and Sadaram Tanwar were elected unanimously. Thus, as given below, K.G.Bose group won all the posts.

President	: K.G.Bose
Vice-Presidents	:R.S.Yadav, R.Muniratnam
Secretary General	: A.S.Rajan
Secretary	: R.P.Chattejee
Treasurer	: Sadaram Tanwar

The declaration was received with thunderous applause. It was for the first time that a ‘Worker President’ has been elected for NFPTE. All these years, it was either some M.P.s or Advocates who were elected as President. Now a worker, that too, a dismissed worker has been elected as President. ‘Worker President Zindabad!, K.G.Bose Zindabad’, the slogans echoed throughout conference venue. The Federal Council has given a tough blow to the revisionist and reformist leaders.

Vijayawada Federal Council was historic which elected the progressive forces to lead the Federation. History has been created and the will of the workers has been fulfilled.

Fight against Victimisation.

The first task of the new leadership was to get the pending strike victimization vacated. Reformist leaders were depending upon the leniency of the government and waiting for further liberalization. But the newly elected leadership was determined to

mobilize the workers to fight for ensuring that each and every employee was taken back for duty.

NFPTE called for massive campaign amongst the workers and public against victimization. A detailed Memorandum on pending cases was submitted to Prime Minister on 17th December and mass demonstrations were organized on 18th December 1970.

K.G.Bose President and R.P.Chatterjee, Secretary NFPTE met Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on 20th January 1971 and had detailed discussion. She assured that necessary action will be taken. Kerala was one of the circles where maximum victimization took place. A lengthy discussion took place with Minister of State of Home Affairs, Ram Nivas Mirdha on 20.3.971 regarding Kerala victimisation.

All these effective actions resulted in restoration of normalcy to an extent. Still, there were some dismissals and other victimization which NFPTE continued its effort to get vacated.

Local Agitations.

P&T Department was fast expanding and new Post Offices/RMS Offices/Telephone Exchanges/Telegraph Offices were being opened up. Employees were being recruited on a large scale. The Five Years Plans being implemented required fast development of the communication networks. While development was taking place, similar improvement was lacking in the service conditions or in wage structure. While the 1960 and 1968 strikes was for better wages and service conditions, neither were given due priority by the government. Local agitation was organised in many places to settle local issues. Sometimes, it was the result of certain incidents like attack on the workers by the public or victimization by higher authorities etc. NFPTE supported these agitations and tried to settle them. Many such agitations were organized in various places and the issues were settled then and there. The Federation supported all these local agitations and made efforts to settle the issues. This was the difference between the revisionist leaders and the present progressive leadership.

Assam P&T Strike.

An ex-MLA, one R.M.Das barged in to the Karimganj Telephone Exchange in Assam along with about 100 supporters on 30-01-1971 and manhandled telephone operators on duty including one lady operator. They had to be hospitalized. The P&T workers immediately went on strike demanding the arrest and action against

the culprits. A few people were arrested, but not the leader, the ex-MLA, due to his influence in the government. The P&T Co-Ordinating Committee, Assam gave call for indefinite strike till the issue is settled. The Tools-Down started from 02-02-1971 and continued for six days. They met the Chief Minister on 02-02-1971 and demanded justice. The government was compelled to act and the agitation was called off.

Demonstration by Short Duty Operators.

Short Duty Operators were posted in large numbers in major exchanges due to shortage of staff. Though they have been working for long period, they were deprived of regularization. In Delhi, these short duty telephone operators organized demonstrations. NFPTE took up their cases and orders were got issued regularizing the SDTOs all over India.

Delhi CTX Tools Down against molestation.

A young lady telephone operator was molested and bitten on her cheek by one miscreant while coming for duty to the Delhi Telephone Exchange in the evening of 5th March 1967. Telephone staff went on spontaneous tools-down strike. There was complete dislocation of telephone services in the capital.

There were similar cases of teasing and molestation earlier also. A taxi-stand was near the telephone exchange and the miscreants utilized this area which was almost dark during the night time. The striking workers demanded that the miscreant be arrested, the taxi-stand be shifted and light be provided in the entire area. These were all agreed and the strike was called off.

Lightning Strike at Patna GPO.

A Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Anant Prasad Singh, threatened the clerk in the SB Section in GPO, Patna and hurled abuses. He raised his revolver at the clerk, when the latter explained to him the proper rules. The employees immediately protested and went on lightning strike. NFPTE took up the issue with the government and it was assured necessary action will be taken for the safety of the employees. A similar incident happened at Gauhati, Assam, when a Postal clerk was assaulted by a customer. P&T staff went on direct action and the government was compelled to take action against the culprits.

Chandigarh Agitation.

Central Government employees of Chandigarh organized Pay Strike and other agitational programmes for grant of compensatory allowance to the CG employees as was granted to the state government



employees. Hunger strike continued for many days. A convention was held which was addressed by the then Chief Minister of Punjab, Giani Zail Singh (who later became the President of India) among other leaders.

Simla Agitation.

A similar agitation was organized in Himachal Pradesh for grant of compensatory allowance on par with the state government employees.

Bhubaneshwar Agitation.

The entire Postal employees went on mass-sick leave against beating of a Postal employee by an Asst. Postmaster, who was reported to be a leader of the newly formed National Union.

Such local agitations happened in many places against injustices and attacks on the staff. The new Federation leadership led by K.G.Bose and A.S.Rajan supported such struggles, took up the issues with the Directorate and made all efforts to settle them.

Nath Pai, M.P. expired.

Nath Pai, M.P., Chairman of the Confederation of Central Govt. Employees & Workers since 1957 and a veteran trade union leader, who spearheaded the 1960 and 1968 strikes, passed away on 18-01-1971 at Belgaum due to heart attack. His inspiring speeches were much appreciated. His historic speech in the Parliament on 09-08-1960 against the suppression of the 1960 strike will be remembered for a long period. His death was an irreparable big loss to the trade unions and especially to the CG Employees movement.

Memorandum to the III CPC.

NFPTE leaders met the Chairman, Third Central Pay Commission and submitted a detailed Memorandum on 18-07-1970. The demands included Need based minimum wage at Rs. 268.25, Interim relief, increasing HRA from 10% to 15% in A class cities, from 8% to 12% in B 1 class, 7.5% to 8% in B2 class and 5% in C class cities, Pension to be raised from 30/80 to 30/60 (i.e., 50% of last pay), Family pension to be increased from 15% to 40% etc. Documents and justifications supporting the demands were submitted to the III CPC.

III CPC Submits Interim Report.

The Pay Commission submitted its interim report on 16-09-1970 recommending Interim Relief at the following rates:

Pay Below Rs.85/-	: IR of Rs 15
Rs. 85 to 209	: Rs. 25
Rs. 210-499	: Rs. 30

Rs. 500 – 1250 : Rs. 45

This was completely disappointing to the employees.

D.A. Demands Day on 28-07-1971.

Although, the cost of living was increasing continuously, no DA to compensate the same was granted. Confederation, AIDEF and NFPTE gave call to organize Demands Day on 28-07-1971. Demonstrations were held in Delhi in front of the Prime Minister's Residence focusing the demands. Demonstration and dharna were organized throughout the country.

Meeting of Trade Unions on 18th and 19th May 1971.

A meeting of the trade union organizations was convened jointly by AITUC and BMS on 18th and 19th May 1971 on the eve of the Indian Labour Conference. NFPTE was an invitee. K.G.Bose, President and R.P.Chatterjee, Secretary, attended the meeting. K.G. Bose addressed and expressed the view points of the Federation. A joint declaration was adopted by the Convention in which the following demands were raised:

1. Amendment to the Constitution with a view to eliminate the right to property from the fundamental rights so as to expedite implementation of the Directive Principles.
2. Elimination of monopoly capital by nationalization without compensation
3. Genuine and radical land reforms in the interests of the peasants and the landless agricultural labour.
4. A wage policy providing for rise in real wages. A national need-based minimum wage with automatic rise of D.A. providing full neutralisation against changes in cost.
5. Moratorium on foreign debts.
6. Public control of all commodities which constitute necessities of life with a view to ensuring supplies at equitable prices.
7. Change in the financial and industrial policy in order to free our economy from foreign influences and dictates.

It also decided that instead of arbitration and adjudication, the demands raised should be settled through collective bargaining and negotiation. The Central TUs and participating Federations set up a small committee with Satish Loomba (AITUC), Mahesh Desai (HMS) and P.Ramamurti(CITU) to call broad based meetings and to organise necessary campaign This was an important decision for broader unity against the anti-worker policies of the government. (...to be continued...)



CHQ Circular no.3 dated 16th April, 2020.

Continue to be cautious.

I sincerely hope that all of you and your family members are fine and congratulate for overcoming the third phase of lockout in the country. World Health Organisation has warned that the Corona Virus will never go away. Needless to add that we have to be still vigilant against the pandemic, particularly when elders are vulnerable to the dreaded pandemic. Therefore let us continue to be inside the house for some more time to ensure our safety. If at all in unavoidable circumstances you go out, please wear the mask and keep social distance.

PM Cares / CMDRF and Contract Workers Relief Fund.

CHQ had given a call to collect fund from our members towards Prime Minister's Relief fund or Chief Ministers Relief fund to help the people in distress due to the Covid-19. The amount collected was directed to be sent directly to the PM CARES or CMDRF with intimation to CHQ. In Kerala, the Circle Branch asked the members to make online payment to CMDRF with intimation to the Circle Branch. With the active involvement and initiative of the District Secretaries, about Rs.32 lakhs has already been contributed and still continuing. Tamil Nadu Circle donated Rs.1,22,740 to PM CARES. Karnataka Circle has donated Rs.1,18,500 to PM

CARES and Rs.12,500 to CM Relief Fund. Assam Circle Branch has donated Rs.50,000 from its own fund to National Health Mission, Assam. Other Circles are requested to send the details. Being senior citizens, it is our bounden duty to help our fellow citizens at this time of distress.

It was also requested to help the BSNL contract workers who are not being paid their wages for the last one year, by collecting donations and to distribute locally. Tamil Nadu Circle Branch has done extremely well by collecting about Rs.11,04,660 and distributed to the contract workers. Kolkata Telephones Circle has donated Rs. 2,45,000 as on 22-04-2020. Kolkata TF & Stores has donated Rs.25,000 as the first installment. West Bengal Circle has collected about Rs.6,50,000. Karnataka Circle has donated Rs.1,08,602 Consolidated figure of collection made in NE-1 Circle is also to be received. In Andhra Pradesh Circle also has collected Rs.1,15,900. Details of collection from other circles are yet to be furnished. Kindly therefore intimate CHQ the exact position and the circles where no collection is made so far are urged to do it without further delay with due intimation to CHQ.

Filing of Income Tax return.

Finance Ministry has extended the date of filing of income tax return from 31-07-2020 to 30-11-2020.

Contribution of Karnataka, Assam and Andhra Pradesh Circles to Contract Workers Relief Fund.

Karnataka Circle donated Rs.1,08,602 to Contract Workers Relief Fund.
Rs. 1,51,833 to PM Cares Fund and Rs.12,500 to Chief Minister's Relief Fund.
Assam Circle from its own fund donated Rs. 50,000/- to National Health Mission, Assam.
Andhra Pradesh Circle has donated Rs.2,15,900 to Contract Workers Relief Fund.

Punjab Circle.

Com.Balwinder Singh, Circle Secretary, Punjab has given the information that AIBDPA Punjab Circle along with BSNLEU, AIBSNLEA and AIGETOA collected donations from various SSAs and distributed kits of food materials to the BSNL contract workers and their families and the major share coming from AIBDPA. Details of donations SSA wise are as follows;

Amritsar - Rs.78,400 /-	Chandigarh - Rs.63,800/-
Mohali - Rs.12,900/-	Ludhiana - Rs.2,25,000/-



Organisational Report

Assam

Assam Circle Conference.

5th biennial circle conference of AIBDPA, Assam Circle was held at Gandhi Bhawan, Silchar on 10-11-2019. Com. Mohan Gohain Vice-President hoisted the AIBDPA Flag. Floral Tributes were offered to martyrs. The open session started at 10.30 A.M. in an enthusiastic atmosphere which was presided by Com. M.R. Das, Senior vice President in the absence of president Com. D.N. Baishya. Com. Bijoy Deba Circle Secretary BSNL Employees Union Assam inaugurated. Com. Garga Talukdar, Joint Convenor, JCTU Assam addressed the house as the Chief Guest. He thoroughly exposed the anti people and anti-working class and pro-corporate policies of the Central Government and decisive activities of the Sangha Parivar in the name of religions Com. Ranjan Das Chairman Reception Committee welcomed all. Coms. Bidyut Deb-EWTCC, Atin Deb Choudhury, LICl, Gopika Ranjan Roy, D/S Silchar and S.Kr. Das, Jt. Convenor, Joint Forum of Pensioners and Retired Assam addressed. Com. K.G. Jayaraj. G.S. AIBDPA could not attend the conference due to bad weather and cancellation of all flights from Kolkata to Silchar. In his absence Com. M.R. Das President as well

as AGS explained the issues confronting the pensioners, Revision of Pension and revision of pay and latest developments in BSNL after introducing VRS etc.

In the delegate session held at 3.30 P.M. under the presidium of Coms. M.R. Das, Mohan Gohain, D.C. Paul and R.K. Laskar all vice-presidents. Com. S.N. Sharma, Circle Secretary presented the report and audited accounts for the year 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. On two days conference total 24 comrades participated in the discussion on the report and organisational issues. More than 100 comrades attended the conference and very excellent arrangements were made by the RC. The conference decided to hold the ensuing CEC meeting at Guwahati in most effective manner, which will be held on 24th & 25th November-2019. After summing up by Com. Sharma Circle Secretary the report and accounts were adopted at the end of conference. Com. Dipak Chakraborty, GS Reception Committee extended the vote of thanks. The following Circle office-bearers are elected unanimously; President. Com. Manabendra Saha Rtd. C.A.O. Com. S.N. Sharma, Ex. TTA as Circle Secretary, Com. Lahiram Boro, Rtd. SDE as Treasurer.



Gujarat

Reception to VRS retirees of Jamnagar, Gujarat.

It was a rare and happy occasion in a typical Gujarat village on 01-03-2020. Com.H.D.Jadeja, District President, BSNLEU invited all the VRS retirees of Jamnagar along with AIBDPA leaders to a get-together party held at his native village, Makhaji Meghper. The Chief Guest was Shri. Hakubha Jadeja, Gujarat State Minister for Food. Coms.N N Patel, Circle President, M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary, V D Dhamsania, Circle Vice President, A U Anjaria, Circle Treasurer, I K Borkhtaria, District President and N N Kaneria, District Secretary attended from AIBDPA. Com.S S Dubey, District Secretary, BSNLEU also participated. Com.H D Jadeja along with 45 other VRS retirees who participated in the function readily joined AIBDPA and another 75 VRS retirees have already promised to join. CHQ heartily congratulate Com.H D Jadeja and other leaders of Gujarat.

Special Generalbody meeting with VRS retirees by Surendranagar district.

A special generalbody meeting of Surendranagar district was held on 08-03-2020 and the meeting became significant with the large participation of VRS retirees, pensioners and family pensioners. Com.M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary and CHQ Organising Secretary inaugurated the meeting with an elaborate speech on the issues including pension revision, medical issues, CGHS, issues of VRS retirees, agitational program and the efforts being taken by AIBDPA for the settlement. Com.M K Parejiya, District Secretary welcomed all and presented the report. Com. H N Pancholi, District Treasurer reported on the financial position. Com. C P Sabhani, District President controlled the proceedings. Com. Mohd Attaula,

District Secretary, BSNLEU attended and addressed.

Shri Hitesh V Joshi, DGM was the Chief Guest and appreciated the functioning of AIBDPA. A host of comrades spoke on the occasion. Com.Girish Thakar, who is an NRI also joined AIBDPA and donated Rs.5,000. Gift was given to all the participants donated jointly by Coms.M V Patel, B P Sompura, I C Zala and N P Panchasra. Out of 105 VRS retirees, 85 have joined AIBDPA.

75 VRS retirees join AIBDPA at Godhra, Gujarat.

A meeting of the VRS retirees of Godhra District was convened by Com. G J Solanki, District Secretary, BSNLEU on 06-03-2020. Com.H B Parmar also took an active role in organising the meeting. Com.G J Solanki explained the intention of the meeting and the necessity to join AIBDPA which has already taken up the issues of VRS retirees in right earnest. 75 VRS retirees participated and readily joined AIBDPA. It was reported in the meeting that more VRS retirees will be joining in the coming days.

CHQ congratulate Coms.G J Solanki and H B Parmar for their excellent work and welcome all the new members to the mighty organisation, AIBDPA. Actually, in Godhra AIBDPA has no District unit and a District Co-ordinator is nominated by the Circle Secretary. Gujarat is surging ahead under the able leadership of Com.M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary and CHQ Organising Secretary and Com.M K Dave, former Vice President, CHQ BSNLEU, nominated as the Circle Co-ordinator took great initiative to mobilize the VRS retirees of Gujarat Circle to the fold of AIBDPA.

Kerala

Cheruvathur Area Conference held with good participation.

The biennial Area Conference was held on 03-03-2020 and Com.K Rajan, Asst Circle Secretary inaugurated. Com.K Mohanan, Asst Circle Secretary presented the organisational

report. Coms.P.V.Unnikrishnan, District President and K.Kunhiraman, District Secretary greeted the conference. Coms.K.P.Harinath, K.K.V. Narayanan and K.V. Balakrishnan were elected President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.



Kottayam District Convention held on 22.02.2020.

Com.N Guruprasad, Circle Secretary inaugurated the Kottayam District Convention at NGO Union Hall, Vaikom on 22-02-2020. Com. K E Abraham, District President presided over the convention. Com.C R Ponnappan , District Secretary welcomed the gathering including VRS retirees. In his inaugural address, Com.N Guruprasad explained the issues of the pensioners including pension revision and the ongoing agitations, medical claims, issues of VRS retirees and efforts of CHQ for grant of provisional pension and the post VRS scenario in BSNL. Coms. T K Gopi (KSSPU), V S Thankappan (CGPA), Amruthakumar and Karthikeyan also addressed. Senior comrades and the VRS retirees were honoured by Com.N Guruprasad. With vote of thanks by Com. Jose T George, the convention came to an end.

Thrissur area VRS Retirees Convention Held.

Thrissur Area convention with VRS retirees was held at P&T Society Hall on 10-03-2020. Com.C P Jose, Area President was in chair. Com.P G Prakasan, Area Secretary welcomed one and

all. Com. N Guruprasad, Circle Secretary inaugurated the convention and explained almost all issues in detail. Coms.P M Gopalakrishnan, Asst Circle Secretary, T Ramakrishnan, District Secretary, S K Gopalan, Circle Vice President and Raveendran, Irinjalakuda Area Secretary also addressed. Representing the VRS retirees, Coms A C Rafi and A Anto spoke and expressed their joy on associating with AIBDPA. With vote of thanks by Com.K V Kumaran, the convention came to an end.

Malappuram District Convention with VRS retirees.

A good number of VRS retirees participated in the Malappuram District Convention held at NGO Union Hall, Malappuram on 05-03-2020. Com. N Guruprasad, Circle Secretary inaugurated the convention with an elaborate speech covering the current issues and the agitational programme being launched by AIBDPA. He also explained the timely action taken by CHQ for grant of provisional pension and assured the VRS retirees that their issues will be dealt with all seriousness.

Kolkata Telephones.

Kolkata North District Conference held with huge participation.

Com. Sanjib Banerjee, AGS & Circle Secretary, Inaugurated the AIBDPA North District 4th Biennial Conference held at Barrackpur on 21.02.2020. Com Supriya Mitra, Circle President, Com D.Basu, AGS, Com. Saibal

Sengupta, CHQ Organising Secretary, Com. Swastika Dasgupta, CHQ Organising Secretary and Com. Arup Sarkar also addressed. Com. Hasi Dasgupta, Com. Ashu Sen and com. Dilip Majumder elected as District President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. About 200 delegates attended the conference. Com. Santosh Das presided the conference.

North East-I

Tripura District Conference held with huge participation.

The 5th biennial District Conference of Tripura District Branch has been held with large participation of pensioners at Matangini Prilata Sabhagriha, Agartala on 22-02-2020. Com.B C Pal, District President and the Vice Presidents were in the presidium. Com.M C Bhowmik, District Secretary welcomed and presented the biennial report followed by the audited accounts by Com.Ganesh Goswami, Treasurer. 20 delegates participated actively

in the discussion on the report covering various issues of the pensioners, current political situation, BSNL revival package and the struggles being launched by AIBDPA for pension revision. Thereafter the report and accounts were adopted by the conference. Leaders of BSNLEU, SNEA, AIBSNLEA, AICCWF also addressed the conference. Office bearers were elected unanimously with Coms. B C Pal (President), Mintu Chandra Bhowmik (District Secretary) and Mohendra Bebnath (Treasurer).



Odisha

VRS retirees welcome meeting held at Bhadrak, Odisha.

Balasore District Branch organised a well attended VRS retirees meeting at Bhadrak on 23-02-2020. Com.Gadadhara Panda, District President controlled the proceedings.Com.Sridhar Das, Asst Circle Secretary welcomed one and all. Com.A.Dhupal, CHQ Vice President inaugurated the meeting and gave a good account of developments in the recent past, including post VRS scenario in BSNL, issues of VRS retirees and efforts taken by CHQ for grant of provisional pension and the ongoing agitational programme culminating in the Parliament March on 12-03-2020 demanding pension revision.. Coms.P K Nayak, District Secretary,BSNLEU and U K Patra also addressed the meeting. All the VRS retirees attended the meeting readily joined AIBDPA.

Balasore District Convention with VRS retirees held.

A special convention of Balasore District with VRS retirees has been held on 15-03-2020. Com. Mangobinda Dalai, District President controlled the proceedings. Com.Purushottam Pradhan, District Secretary welcomed the gathering. Coms.A.Dhupal, CHQ Vice President and A C Mohanty Circle Secretary addressed and explained the issues in detail including pension revision and the struggles being waged by AIBDPA and the efforts of AIBDPA on the issues of VRS retirees. Com.P K Nayak, District Secretary, BSNLEU also addressed the convention.

A large number of pensioners along with VRS retirees participated and 50 VRS retirees joined as life members on the spot.Com.Sridhar Das , ACS proposed vote of thanks.

Punjab

Ludhiana District Special convention held.

A special convention of Ludhiana District was held on 03-03-2020. Com.Balwinder Singh, Circle Secretary inaugurated the convention and explained the current status of issues of the

pensioners and.the ongoing struggle for pension revision. He appealed all to participate in the Parliament March being held on 12-03-2020. A good number of VRS retirees also attended and became members of AIBDPA

Tamil Nadu

Tanjore District Conference held successfully.

The first District Conference of Tanjore was held on 29-02-2020. The open session was held jointly with BSNLEU, its 9th conference. Both the Circle Secretaries of AIBDPA, Com.N.Kuppusamy and Com. A Baburadhakrishnan of BSNLEU addressed the open session. Com.P Manickam, Senior Leader, BSNLEU presided.

In the AIBDPA subject session Com.N. Kuppamy, Circle Secretary spoke elaborately on pensioners issues, VRS retirees issues and efforts being made by AIBDPA for the settlement. He also appealed to make the agitational programme for pension revision, successful. Office bearers have been elected unanimously with Com.P.Pakkirisamy

(President), Com.R.Pannerselvam (District Secretary) and Com. S N Selvaraj (Treasurer).

Vellore District VRS retirees Convention.

Vellore District Branch organised a VRS retirees' special convention on 04-03-2020. Com.V. Ezhumalai, District President controlled the proceedings. Com.B Jothisudanthiranathan, District Secretary welcomed all. Com.C K Narasimhan, Circle President inaugurated the convention and gave a good account of recent developments. Com.S Nataraja, Circle Treasurer delivered a special address.

The issues raised in the convention by certain VRS retirees were replied by Com.C K Narasimhan.

50 VRS retirees readily joined by paying life subscription.





ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

[Registered No. S/68836/2010]

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President: A.K. Bhattacharjee

Press Statement

Dated: 25-04-2020

AIBDPA oppose unjustified Dearness Relief cut by Central Government.

All India BSNL - DOT Pensioners Association representing more than one lakh of pensioners retired from Department of Telecom and BSNL strongly opposes the drastic decision of the Central Government freezing Dearness Allowance / Dearness Relief due from 1st January 2020, 1st July 2020 and 1st January 2021 to the central government employees and pensioners, in the name of financing Covid 19 situation.

The BSNL – DOT Pensioners as per the call of the Association has already donated to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund or the Chief Minister's Relief Fund according to their ability and about Rs. 50lakh has already been paid through the Association or directly. In Kerala alone, Rs. 20 lakh has been paid to Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The Pensioners and family pensioners are dependent upon their meagre pension and they are completely at the mercy of others having been restricted at home during lock down period. Many of these pensioners draw minimum pension which is insufficient even for day to day expenses, leave alone for purchase of medicines etc. BSNL Management has stopped medical allowance and reimbursement of medical treatment expenses for the last two years on the plea of lack of funds. It is at this crucial time that the decision to freeze DR for 18 months has been issued. The DR cut will be about Rs. 17,000 or more for a pensioner getting about Rs. 10,000 monthly pension, i.e. about double of his monthly pension. This amount will increase according to the increase in pension which will put the pensioners to extreme difficulty.

It is to be noted that the same government, which wants to freeze the DA and DR of the low paid employees and pensioners, has been giving unjustified reduction in tax, relaxation in payment of dues to the government, writing off NPAs etc. to the big corporates, amounting to lakhs of crores of rupees.

Under these circumstances, AIBDPA expresses its strong protest and demand the government to withdraw the order and continue to grant eligible DA /DR in due time. The Association has appealed to the Honourable Prime Minister to concede our demand and withdraw the unjustified order.

K G Jayaraj

General Secretary

All India BSNL DoT Pensioners Association.



Freezing of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees and Dearness Relief to Central Government Pensioners at current rates till July, 2021.

[AIBDPA/DA-PM/2020 dated April 25th, 2020 to Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister]

Please refer to the O.M. No. 1/1/2020-EII (B) dated 23rd April, 2020 issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance in view of the crisis arising out of the pandemic Covid -19, ordering that the Dearness Relief to Central Government Pensioners will be frozen at the current rates till July, 2021.

In this connection, we on behalf of the All India BSNL – DOT Pensioners Association submit the following for your kind consideration and early necessary action.

Immediately on your appeal for donation to combat the spread of the pandemic Covid-19, the BSNL – DOT pensioners of more than two lakhs had voluntarily contributed to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund or the respective Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the best of their ability. About Rs. Fifty lakh have been donated by pensioners belonging to our association, through the association or directly, to these relief funds, including about Rs. Twenty lakhs to Kerala Chief Minister's Relief Fund alone. Pensioners, as you are aware, are senior Citizens mostly inflicted with several diseases and physical debilities and are presently directed by the authorities to be confined to their homes. They are prohibited to go out and are depended upon others for their daily needs. Pension being only 50% of the last drawn salary or even less, they are seldom able to make both ends meet. The condition of the family pensioners are worse.

The above cited order of the Government of India has been a bolt from the blue for many pensioners. Since they are depended upon others for all their needs, the procurement of medicines, visiting hospitals, collecting groceries etc, they have to spend more. The expenditure has become more than what it was a few months back. In fact, presently they are in dire need of extra allowances to pull on. They, along with the millions of people all over the world, want the pandemic to end and therefore, support every decision of the Government especially the restrictions imposed on their movement and donation to PM CARES Fund etc.

The decision of the Government to freeze the Dearness Relief which had become due on 1st January, 2020 is unprecedented. We earnestly feel that the country's economy has not reached such a situation that the Government needs to curtail the meagre pension of the old people. Never in the history of the country, even when it's very existence was threatened by external aggression or during the worst financial crisis of 1990s, had the Government resorted to confiscate the pension income of senior citizens. No doubt, our country like many other Nations of the world is fighting to wipe out the pandemic, and the Lock Down has halted all economic activities. We feel that our country's economy is comparatively robust and is capable of facing the challenges without resort to pauperizing the pensioners. While benefit packages are extended to considerably well to-do segments in the society, the denial of the due entitlements to the pensioners is extremely painful.

From the order it is seen that the Government has not only decided to freeze the DR entitlements but would also not release the arrears even after the normalcy in the economic activities is restored.

It would, therefore, be appropriate that the pensioners are excluded from the purview of the O.M.cited above. The decision to impound the arrears of Dearness Relief till July,2021 is extremely harsh on low income pensioners and family pensioners. Impounding the Dearness Relief, in our opinion, is not legally tenable without the consent of the concerned pensioner. The Finance Ministry is well aware of the rule that the entitled pension cannot be curtailed. Whoever has advised the Government that the Dearness Relief on pension should not be construed as pension is wrong and their interpretation is not at all tenable.

The Prime Minister himself has several times mentioned about the vulnerability of the senior citizens and the need to protect them and help them by the society, which has been completely ignored by the Finance ministry, while issuing the order.

We, therefore, appeal to your kind self that, for the reasons stated by us in the preceding paragraphs, the order issued by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure cited, may be directed to be withdrawn forthwith.



PPOs for VRS retired, mentioning pension sanctioned as per BSNL VRS 2019 rules instead of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972.

[AIBDPA/ DOT-VRS/2020 dated 20th June,2020 to Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT]

As per the para 6.2 of the Annexure-1 of the BSNL VRS Order issued on 4.11.2019, the VRS opted employee is entitled to terminal benefits and other benefits as per the existing rules. The existing rules for the BSNL absorbed pensioners are the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972.

But in the case of VRS optees, pension commutation and DCRG is delayed unlike in retirement on superannuation. This postponement was done by the decision of the Cabinet by an executive order. The CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 are statutory, since they are made under proviso of article 309 and 148 of the Constitution of India. It is a settled law that executive fiat cannot override the statutory provisions as clearly stipulated in the Order dated 28th July 2004 issued by the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court in Vijay Singh And Ors. vs State of Uttar Pradesh And Ors. Despite this position it is stated in the PPO of the VRS retirees that their pension will be fixed as per VRS rules. This is not correct.

Hence it is necessary that suitable changes have to be made in the CCS(Pension) Rules 1972 as per the powers conferred by article 309 and 148 of the Constitution of India, so that no problem in the matter shall arise in future for the BSNL VRS retirees.

Revalidation of Medical card - extension of date and other issues .

AIBDPA/BSNL MRS/2020 dated 23rd June,2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

- Ref: - (1) BSNL CO letter No.BSNL/Admin/2020/ Medical dated 04-05-2020
(2) This Association letter No. AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS dated 13-06-2020
(3) BSNL CO Letter No BSNL/Admn-1/15/12/ dated 19-06-2020

First of all, we express our sincere gratitude to your goodself for issuing the clarification order mentioned (2) above in response to our letter dated 13-06-2020. This has addressed most of the issues. However, it is really heart breaking that the most burning issue of

the Pensioners, Non-payment of medical bills both indoor and outdoor, one-time payment paid to CGHS and the medical allowance, continues to be neglected. A humanely approach is overdue on this vital issue and request you to kindly cause necessary action to allot sufficient funds for the same.

BSNL CO vide letter dated 04-05-2020 (referred 1 above) have extended the date of revalidation of Medical card upto 30-06-2020 or till further orders. But it has created some confusion at the lower level as some of the Circles insisting BSNL retirees to submit it before 30-06-2020 and some other Circles like Kerala and Chennai Telephones extending the date upto 30-09-2020 and 31-08-2020, respectively. Hence, we request your kind intervention so that a Pan India extension order upto 30-09-2020 is issued by the Corporate Office at the earliest as in the case of Option for outdoor medical facilities. This will have the advantage of fulfilling both by one go by the pensioners.

We also wish to bring to your kind notice the following genuine issues for your kind consideration and early favourable action.

Discrimination against Family Pensioners.

As per the existing rules, family pensioners are not eligible to submit option for outdoor medical facilities. The option submitted by his/ her spouse is absolute and final. This is a gross injustice and discrimination meted out to the family pensioners. So, a review is very much required in the changed situation.

In cases where both husband and wife are BSNL retirees, only one is eligible for medical allowance. This rule also is discriminatory as in some cases the couple are separated and in some other cases staying in different places. Therefore, a review on the issue is necessary so that both the couple are granted the medical allowance.

Medical Reimbursement and Medical Allowance to BSNL pensioners.

[AIBDPA/BSNL MRS-PM/2020 dated May 2, 2020 to Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister]

On behalf of lakhs of BSNL pensioners, we respectfully submit the following for your kind consideration and early favourable intervention.



We thank for your address to the Nation during COVID-19 period, specifically mentioning about the extra care to be ensured with regard to the health and well being of the aged persons, who are more vulnerable to the pandemic.

In this connection, we would like to mention about the sad plight of the BSNL pensioners, who have served the Nation sincerely during long years of their service.

The medical reimbursement for hospital treatment and medical allowance for outdoor treatment are completely stopped by the BSNL Management on the plea of lack of funds. Patients suffering from chronic diseases like cancer, kidney ailments, cardiac problems etc., who require continuous tests and treatment are unable to continue treatment due to non-reimbursement, which endangers their life itself. Quarterly Medical Allowance is also stopped, causing extreme difficulties.

We had discussed the matter with CMD BSNL as also with officers of DOT. Getting no fruitful result, we wrote to Communications Minister, but so far no result.

Under these circumstances, we are compelled to approach your kindness to look in to the extreme difficulties of the BSNL pensioners and issue necessary instructions to the DOT and BSNL management to ensure that all the medical claims of the BSNL pensioners are reimbursed and the quarterly medical allowance with arrears are paid immediately.

Medical Allowance and Medical Reimbursement – Allotment of Funds etc.

[AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS/2020 dated 13th June, 2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD, BSNL]

- Ref: - (1) **BSNL CO No.BSNL /Admn-1/15-12/18 dated 08-05-2020.**
(2) **This Association letter No.AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS/2020 dated 13-05-2020.**
(3) **This Association letter No. AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS/ 2020 dated 19-05-2020.**
(4) **This Association letter No, AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS/2020 dated 4th June 2020**

We are thankful that BSNL has issued orders dated 9th June 2020 extending the date for submission of option for outdoor medical facilities by the retirees up to 30-06-2020 as assured earlier.

There are certain other major issues which are yet to be settled as given below:

1. Neither the Medical Allowance since the 2nd quarter of 2018 nor the payment with voucher since April 2019 has been received by the BSNL Pensioners. As you are fully aware, most of the pensioners are having various ailments and are fully depending upon the above payments. These may be paid at the earliest by allotting sufficient funds to the circles.
2. Regarding the option to be furnished by the pensioners, there is a lot of confusion, including whether every pensioner, old and new, is to submit the option. In our opinion, there need not be any fresh option if the pensioner wants to continue with the option given earlier. In such cases, unless a fresh option is given, it can be taken that the official wants to continue with the earlier option.
3. Another issue is about the submitting of the option itself. Many of the pensioners are residing in far off villages / places away from the divisional headquarters. During the Covid period, there is much difficulty in getting transport. Many of the pensioners are unable to undertake journey due to various ailments. There should be some arrangements for collecting option from such pensioners.
4. We had requested for extension of the date up to 30-06-2020 and you have been kind enough to accept the same. But on a second check-up, we find out that in many states, the Lock Down is extended as also restrictions on travel etc. continue. There is no immediate scope of the covid situation ending. Under the circumstances, we request that the last date of option may be extended up to 30th September 2020. The Central government has given such extension up to 30th September for similar issues.

We request you to look in these matters and issue necessary orders early.

Curtailment of Farewell compliments to the retiring BSNL officials.

[AIBDPA/BSNL-CF/2020 dated 10th January, 2020 to Shri P K Purwar, CMD, BSN]

- Ref: - **Corporate Office Letter F.No.25-7/2019-BSNL(WL) dated 08-01-2020.**

A kind reference is invited to the above mentioned letter wherein it is stated that



- 1) The Cash Gift of Rs.3001 being given to the retiring Officers/Officials during the farewell function is completely withdrawn.
- 2) Refreshment and Bouquets would not be provided to the VRS retirees in January,2020.

It is pertinent to state that Farewell functions are being organized during the retirement of BSNL staff in appreciation of their valuable and meritorious service spanning to more than three decades and it is considered to be an honour to the retiring BSNL staff. While we fully support the efforts of BSNL management for its austerity measures wherever required and to do away with any largesse, it is unfortunate and rather an insult to retiring BSNL staff to deny something which were extended to their predecessors.

Further, it is nothing but a humiliation meted out to the VRS optees to deny them even the refreshment and bouquets during their retirement farewell function, as if they have committed something detrimental to the interests of BSNL.

The Unions and Associations of BSNL and particularly, BSNL Employees Union have listed the areas where unnecessary expenditure is being incurred and suggestions made to avoid any sort of largesse.

In view of the forgone, it is requested to reconsider the matter in a larger perspective so that the retiring officials are allowed to retire without hurting their self pride.

**Non-payment of medical bills,
quarterly medical allowance to
BSNL retirees.**

[AIBDPA/ BSNL-MED/2019 dated 06-03-2020 to
Shri P.K.Purwar, CMD, BSNL]

Please recall the discussion the undersigned and our Advisor, Shri V.A.N Namboodiri had with you on 16.12.2019 on the above referred issue.

You had stated that when the financial position improves in the post VRS scenario, allotment of fund for pending medical bills may be possible. You had also assured that the reimbursement of onetime payment towards CGHS membership will be cleared early.

However, the fund allotted for CGHS reimbursement was not sufficient to clear the pending claims. Further as you are aware CGHS facilities are available in limited places and Pensioners have to travel hundreds of kilometres to avail it, if they opt from a non CGHS area. Another drawback is that some of the prominent hospitals withdraw from the list of empanelled hospitals due to non-payment/ undue delay of their bills from the government.

The sufferings of the aged and ailing Pensioners continue to be worse due to non-payment of medical bills of both indoor and outdoor treatment for the last 18 months. Those who opted without voucher, quarterly medical allowance, are also put in to distress due to non payment. The worst condition is that of Pensioners with chronic diseases like cancer, heart and kidney ailments. They cannot continue their life without medicines and you may just imagine the pathetic situation that when pension amount is incurred for purchasing medicines, the entire family budget will be affected.

In view of the foregoing, it is once again requested that a review be made on this burning issue with a humane approach so that no life is lost due to non consumption of life saving medicine. We sincerely hope that you would be able to allot the required fund to clear the pending bills and arrears of medical allowance, in the changed post VRS scenario.

**Wrong entry in the PPOs being
issued to the BSNL absorbed VRS
retirees.**

[AIBDPA/DOT-VRS PEN/2020 dated 2nd March,
2020 to Shri P.K.Sinha, Member (Finance), DoT]

It has been brought to our notice that in the PPOs being issued to the BSNL absorbed VRS retirees, entry made in Part II, Section 2 (3) pertaining to Rules under which sanctioned, is “BSNL Voluntary Retirement Scheme.”

It is pertinent to mention that there is no such Pension Rules and as such the entry is wrong and irrelevant. We strongly protest against such a wrong entry in the PPO and request your kind intervention for the replacement of the wrong entry with Rule 37 A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. Otherwise it is likely to create unnecessary problem in the future.



DoT / Govt. Orders

Corporate Office
Admin & PR Branch
1st Floor, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan,
H.C.Mathur Lane, Janpath,
New Delhi-110001.
Ph: 011-23734157, Fax: 011-23718288



भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

No. BSNL/Admn./2020/Medical

Dated: 22.06.2020
29

Office Order

Sub:- Extension of Revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for BSNL Retired employees

Ref:- This Office letter No. BSNL/Admn./2020/Medical dated 04.05.2020.

This office has issued letter regarding Extension of Revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for BSNL Retired employees till 30.06.2020 vide this office letter dated 04.05.2020. Requests have been received from Union/Association to further extend the revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for BSNL Retired employees on Pan India basis till 30.09.2020 in view of current COVID-19 situation.

In this regard, it has been decided with the approval of competent authority to extend the validity of BSNL MRS Card of BSNL Retired employees up to 30.09.2020 or till further order. All Circles are requested to take necessary action and extend the validity up to 30.09.2020 or till further order.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

(Rajiv Kumar Sharma)
Dy. General Manager (Admn.)

Copy (Through Intranet) to:-

1. PPS/PS to CMD, BSNL.
2. All Directors of BSNL Board/CVO, BSNL.
3. All C.G.M.s, BSNL Circles for information and necessary action.
4. All CGMs/PGMs/Sr.GMs/GMs, BSNL Corporate office.
5. All recognized Unions/Associations of BSNL.
6. Intranet Portal



Corporate Office
Admin & PR Branch
1st Floor, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan,
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Ph: 011-23734157, Fax: 011-23718288



भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड
(भारत संचार निगम लिमिटेड)
BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/

Dated: 19.06.2020

Office Order

Sub:- Outdoor Medical Claim for BSNL Retired employees – Clarification Regarding

**Ref:- 1. This Office letter No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020.
2. This Office letter No. BSNL/Admn.1/15-12 dated 10.06.2020.**

This office issued certain modifications regarding Outdoor Medical Reimbursement to BSNL employees (Serving/Retired) vide this office letter dated 08.05.2020. Subsequently, the cut-off date available to retired BSNL Employees for choosing the options was issued vide this office letter dated 10.06.2020.

Following clarifications are hereby issued for retired employees:-

1. There shall be no cut-off date for switching over to CGHS i.e. retired employee may opt for CGHS Facility at any time.
2. All retired employees need not to give the option. Option is to be exercised by the retired employee only if he wishes to change the mode of reimbursement from with voucher to without voucher.
3. If Retired Employee does not give any option, the mode of reimbursement of his medical bills shall be with voucher.
4. The option may be exercised once in a year. Due to Covid 19 pandemic, the cut-off date for exercising the option is extended up to 30.09.2020 for this FY 2020-21. No further extension shall be given. So the interested retired employees may exercise their option latest by 30.09.2020
5. For subsequent years, the option may be exercised up to the end of 1st quarter i.e. by 30th June every year.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

(Rajiv Kumar Sharma)
Dy. General Manager (Admn.)

Copy (Through Intranet) to:-

1. PPS/PS to CMD, BSNL.
2. All Directors of BSNL Board/CVO, BSNL.
3. All C.G.M.s, BSNL Circles for information and necessary action.
4. All CGMs/PGMs/Sr.GMs/GMs, BSNL Corporate office.
5. All recognized Unions/Associations of BSNL.
6. Intranet Portal

Regd. & Corporate Office. : Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, H.C. Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110001
Corporate Identity Number(CIN): U74899DL2000GOI107739
Website: www.bsnl.co.in





MOST IMPORTANT

F.No: BSNLCO-EB-I/11(20)/5/2020-ESTAB

Dated: 23rd June, 2020

To,

All Heads of Telecom Circles &
All Heads of Other Administrative Units,
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

Subject: Immediate sending of pending pension cases to CCAs for generation of PPOs in respect of the employees retired voluntarily under the BSNL VRS-2019.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above cited subject and this office letter of even no. dated 11.06.2020. In this regard, kindly find enclosed a copy of the Letter No. 1/BSNL/MTNL/VRS/Monitoring/1753 dated 09.06.2020 received from Advisor (Finance), DOT informing that total 6343 (now 5401 as per enclosed Annexure-A) pension cases in respect of the BSNL VRS- 2019 retirees are yet to be received from BSNL. A significant number of cases are awaited in 09 CCA offices namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Ne-II and W.B. (status report enclosed).

2. The settlement of pension is absolutely necessary for finalization of Ex-gratia amount which is due to be disbursed in near future. Therefore, it is again stated that the pending pension papers, complete in all respect may be immediately submitted to the concerned CCAs. Further, as directed by DOT, all circles may collaborate with the concerned CCA Offices closely for resolution of all issues for early generation of PPOs.

3. In addition, it may also be ensured that any change in the Last pay drawn as per PPO issued by DOT may accordingly be considered for calculation of amount of Ex-gratia through ERP system.

This may be given Top Priority.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,


[Sanjeev Kumar]

Asstt. General Manager (Estt.I)

Tel. No. 23037477

Copy to:

1. Sr.PPS to CMD, BSNL, New Delhi.
2. Sr.PPS to All Directors, BSNL Board.
3. CVO, BSNL CO, Eastern Court Complex, Janpath, New Delhi.
4. PGM (ERP) /SR. GM(CA) – For kind information and necessary action.
5. CS & CGM (Legal) / All PGMs / Sr. GMs / GMs in BSNL CO New Delhi.5
5. BSNL Intranet / Guard File.



Annexure A

S.No.	Name of Circle	Total No. of VRS cases for settlement	Cumulative no. of VRS of cases received from BSNL/ MTNL	Cases yet to be received from BSNL/MTNL
1	2	3	4	5
1	A& N	47	46	1
2	Andhra Pradesh	4892	4822	70
3	Assam	1423	1423	0
4	Bihar	1648	1600	48
5	Chhatisgarh	581	581	0
6	Delhi (BSNL)	1752	1741	11
7	Gujarat	6410	6279	131
8	Haryana	1555	1555	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	880	879	1
10	J&K	485	485	0
11	Jharkhand	787	769	18
12	Karnataka	6057	6046	11
13	Kerala	4543	4543	0
14	Kolkata	1716	1704	12
15	Madhya Pradesh	3659	3569	90
16	Mahrastra & Goa	9997	5647	4350
17				
18	NE -I	327	325	2
19	NE-II	375	323	52
20	Odisha	1397	1370	27
21	Punjab	2528	2525	3
22	Rajasthan	3688	3682	6
23	Tamilnadu	8771	8504	267
24	Telangana	4761	4704	57
25	UP (E)	3510	3479	31
26	UP (W)	2284	2278	6
27	Uttarakhand	686	685	1
28	WB	2402	2196	206
	Total	77161	71760	5401



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Meeting with Member (Finance) – DOT.

Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary has met Shri.P.K.Sinha, Member (Finance), Department of Telecommunications on 02-03-2020 and handed over a letter regarding wrong entry in the PPO of VRS retirees. But the Member (Finance) told that there is nothing to worry about the entry and adequate care is taken to safeguard the interests of the VRS retirees. General Secretary brought to his notice that apprehensions are there in the minds of some of the VRS retirees that they may be deprived of future pension revision. Member (Finance) replied that whatever may be entitled to the superannuation pensioners will be available to the VRS retirees also and they will not be discriminated.

General Secretary also discussed the issue of payment of the first installment of exgratia to the VRS retirees. The Member (Finance) has stated that it is being processed and could be expected shortly.

Ex-Gratia to VRS Retirees - Meeting with DDG (Accounts), DOT.

Com. K.G.Jayaraj, General Secretary visited Sanchar Bhawan to meet the Member (Finance) to ascertain the progress on payment of the first installment of ex-gratia to the VRS retirees. Unfortunately he was not available and has met Shri.Amitab Ranjan Sinha, DDG(Accounts) Department of Telecommunications on 27-02-2020.

The DDG(Accounts) stated that the amount for the first installment of ex-gratia to the VRS retirees will be made over to BSNL once BSNL gives the

required data on the actual requirement and hoped to fulfill before the target date of March 31, 2020. On issuing PPOs to the VRS retirees, DDG clarified that the work is being carried out satisfactorily in almost all CCAs.

AUAB Hunger Strike held successfully all over the country - Pensioners participated in good number.

The second phase of the agitational program called by AUAB, Hunger Strike on 24-02-2020 has been held successfully throughout the country. The agitation was organised demanding immediate payment of salary of January, 2020, timely payment of salary, immediate payment of 10 months wages to the contract workers, immediate implementation of revival package etc. In New Delhi, the hunger strike was addressed by the leaders of AUAB constituent unions and associations. Com.K.G.Jayaraj, General Secretary along with a good number of AIBDPA members participated fully. Reports received indicate that in almost all places, AIBDPA members joined the Hunger Strike as per the call of CHQ.

Funds released by DOT for payment of Ex-gratia to BSNL VRS retirees.

After much delay, DOT has released the funds for payment of first instalment of Ex-gratia amount to VRS retirees in BSNL, coming to Rs.4,156 crore. According to the order dated 26th March, the payment is to be made within 21 days and that this fund cannot be used for any other purpose. In the present circumstances of COVID-19, maximum efforts on the part of BSNL is required to ensure that the payment is made in time.

DOT releases Rs.3,021 crore for exgratia payment to VRS Retirees.

AIBDPA has been continuously pursuing the issues of VRS retirees, particularly delay in exgratia payment and issuing PPOs. We wrote a letter to Secretary, Department of Telecommunications on 08.06.2020 in which our concern on breach of assurance on payment of exgratia payment was highlighted. The DoT released the fund initially for 31.3% of exgratia payment instead of 50%, as assured. We had in our letter demanded payment of balance of exgratia before 30-06-2020.

But again, the government through DoT has released only Rs.3,021 crore which amounts to 22.5% only of the exgratia. That means, 46.2% still to be paid and no assurance on when this will be paid. This is nothing but betrayal and we strongly protest against this gross injustice meted out to the VRS retirees.