



# ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

[Registered No. S/68836/2010]

## Central Head Quarters

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AIBDPA/ PSC -SCST/VRS-MH/2020

19<sup>th</sup> December, 2020

To,

**Dr. (Prof) Kirti Premjibhai Solanki**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Parliamentary Standing Committee**  
**on Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe**  
**Lok Sabha Secretariat,**  
**New Delhi-110 001**

Respected Sir,

Sub: - **Denial of pension and pensionary benefits to BSNL VRS retirees belonging to ST category in Maharashtra for alleged non-confirmation of caste certificate- intervention requested- req.**

Ref : - **Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance F No.30013/27/2020-Ad IV A dated 16-10-2020.**

We wish to bring to the kind notice of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, one of the burning issues of the BSNL VRS retirees belonging to ST category for necessary intervention and early settlement.

A brief history of the issue is as follows;

As part of the revival package of BSNL declared by the Government of India on 23rd October, 2019, 78,569 BSNL employees availed VRS, mainly due to the attractive Ex-gratia offered. BSNL allowed these employees to retire on VRS with effect from 31-01-2020 having been fulfilled all the conditions of the VRS scheme.

However, 199 BSNL VRS retirees belonging to ST category in Maharashtra Circle are denied all the retirement benefits including pension and Ex-gratia. After our continuous efforts, provisional pension was granted to them but that too is not being paid regularly and in time. The reason attributed for the denial of the pension and pensionary benefits is the alleged non-confirmation of the caste certificate.

In this connection, we have written four letters to the CMD, BSNL and Secretary, Telecommunications pointing out the procedure laid down by the DoP&T for verification of caste certificate during the time of entry of the employee in a particular government department. And it is absolutely wrong on the part of the BSNL authorities to ask these ST retirees to produce fresh caste certificate after retirement. Most of these ST retirees have put in to 25 to 35 years service and the concerned BSNL /DoT authorities completely failed to get their caste certificates verified while they were in service. So, there is no justification or rationale in denying the retirement benefits to these retirees for the lapse on the part of DoT and BSNL authorities.

In our latest letter addressed to the Secretary, Telecommunications and CMD, BSNL dated 09-11-2020, we had also referred the letter issued by the Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance dated 16-10-2020, quoting the following directive of the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SC and ST;

*“ 2. The Committee during the deliberations took note of the fact that pensionary benefits are not being paid to ST Officers who have served the department for more than 30 years. The Committee took note of the fact that in spite of clear cut instructions issued by the DoPT verification of caste certificates was not completed at the time of entry and such verification has prolonged for 30 long years in several such cases. Taking note of the plight of the families of such officers, the Committee decided that all such cases where full pensionary benefits have not been disbursed to the retired officers may be taken up on priority and the disbursement of pensionary benefits should be completed by 23-11-2020. The Committee also observed that noncompliance of the directions, it would be constrained to take serious view in subsequent meeting. “*

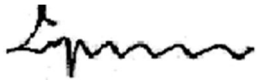
We had also pointed out that the issue of BSNL ST retirees is absolutely similar to the case mentioned in the above directive and requested to settle the issue as a onetime measure. Unfortunately, nothing positive has come out. On the contrary, these VRS retirees belonging to ST category, continue to be harassed and intimidated not only with the denial of retirement benefits but also threat of charge sheet and punishment.

Sir, eleven months are completing after their retirement and these ST retirees, particularly their families, are put in to complete distress and unbearable mental agony due to the denial of pension and pensionary benefits for no fault of theirs'.

Therefore, we would like to request the Parliamentary Committee to kindly consider the issue on the basis of the forgone and cause necessary action to settle the issue at the earliest so that justice is extended to these poor and hapless BSNL VRS retirees belonging to Scheduled Tribe.

With kind regards,

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K G Jayaraj', with a stylized, wavy flourish at the end.

**K G Jayaraj**  
**General Secretary**