



TELE PENSIONER

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October - December 2020



General Strike on 26.11.2020



Farmers' agitation at Delhi.



National Pensioners' Day on 17-12-2020



Davangere (Karnataka)



Sirsa (Haryana)



Imphal (NE-II)



Tirupur (Tamil Nadu)



Asansol (West Bengal)



Ghannal Telephones



Guwahati (Assam)



Kollam (Kerala)



Guwahati (Assam)



Muzaffarpur [UP (West)]



Nellore (Andhra Pradesh)

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Let us be with the farmers.

The farmers in the country are in a do or die battle against the anti-farmer policy of Modi government. They are compelled to March to the National Capital against the three agrarian acts, adopted by the Parliament in a most undemocratic manner. In the Rajya Sabha, the Parliament Members who demanded voting on the acts were suspended. Modi government is repeating the rhetoric that these bills are intended to benefit the farmers as claimed in the cases of monetisation, GST etc.

What is the real impacts of these agrarian acts.? No doubt, it is another attack on the farmers in the name of agricultural reforms as part of the neo-liberal policies to appease the International Finance Capital. Modi government mercilessly rejected the demand of the farmers for Minimum Support Price for their products. The Multi- National Corporations are given freedom to dictate terms of farming, purchase, processing, storage and marketing. The farmers naturally apprehend that in effect it will finish freedom to do farming, will increase input burden, debts, losses, farm suicides and displacement of land.

As far as the people are concerned, they will have to suffer due to the hoarding, black marketing and increased price of food products and the real beneficiaries would be Corporates like Ambani and Adani. As you are aware repeal of farm laws was one of the main demands of the Central Trade Unions for the 26th November Strike.

The farmers struggle is being spearheaded by the All India KisanSangarsh Co-ordination Committee in which several organisations, irrespective of political affiliation are included. Modi government tried its level best to crush the struggle by preventing them from entering Delhi. Police and Army were deployed and barricades, concrete blocks, trucks, water cannons, teargas shells were used against the farmers. They braved all these repressions and stand determined in extreme winter cold doubled with rains. Attempts of the government to make inroads into the unity of the farmers also failed miserably. Finally, the government had to relent and called them for negotiation but with condition that the farmers should move to a maidan. It was rejected by the struggling farmers and seven round of discussions held with the government from 01-12-2020 to 04-01-2021 failed as the government took an adamant stand against repealing of the anti-farmer agrarian acts.

Meanwhile more and more farmers are coming to Delhi from various states and the five highways to Delhi are almost blocked by the farmers. The Kisan March started from Nasik, Maharashtra participated by thousands of farmers under the banner of All India Kisan Sabha reached

[...cont... on page no.04]



Jaipur- Delhi road despite ruthless attacks by the government. Similar struggles are being organized in almost all states.

This is one of the biggest struggles, the country has witnessed and gaining huge support from almost all section of the society. The glorious struggle has given a fitting rebuff to the authoritarian Modi government which was moving ahead with the least consideration of democratic norms and the genuine issues of the workers and the people at large. So, they are resorting to all types of nefarious campaign loaded with tons of lies. One such campaign is against the LDF government in Kerala by the Prime Minister himself. He is reported to have stated that Kerala has no system to procure the agricultural products from the farmers and no minimum support price. What is the reality? Kerala government has an effective grass root level procurement system to collect the paddy from the paddy fields itself and the price, almost double of the central government, is being paid directly to the bank accounts of the farmers. Further Kerala government has introduced a base price for sixteen products of fruits and vegetables from 01-11-2020 to protect the farmers. Comrades, the farmers are the backbone of the country and they are feeding the entire people. Some of the states like Kerala which are dependent on other states for the agricultural products, particularly rice, wheat and vegetables, would be the worst affected if the anti-people agrarian laws are allowed to be implemented.

So, the need of the hour is to ensure the success of farmers' agitation. Let us support the struggle by all means and declare that we are all with the farmers. *Jai Kisan, Jai Bharath*

Solidarity of TUI(P&R) for the National Strike of 26-11-2020.

Solidarity with National Strike in India.

In January of this year, 250 million workers in India demonstrated in a great strike, and as is customary in capitalist countries, the demands were not heard by the government authorities, so it is necessary to return to the de facto measures, in defense of our rights. The demands of our fellow Indian workers are:

1. Cash transfer of Rs 7,500 per month for all families who do not pay income tax
2. 10 Kg of free ration of food per person per month for all those in need.
3. Expansion of MGNREGA to provide 200 days of work a year in rural areas with better wages: extension of the employment guarantee to urban areas.
4. Withdraw all anti-peasant laws and anti-worker labor codes.
5. Stop the privatization of the public sector, including the financial sector, and stop the corporatization of government-run manufacturing and service entities such as railways, ordinance factories, ports, etc.
6. Withdraw the draconian circular on forced premature retirement of government and PSU employees.

7. Provide pension to all, eliminate the NPS and restore the previous pension, improve EPS-95.

With these demands, the National Strike is being prepared for this November 26, where the rights of workers are raised, both in the city and in the countryside, as well as pensioners and retired people, and also the defense of the public sector and against privatizations. The International Union of Trade Unions of Pensioners and Retired People of the World Trade Union Federation (TUI of P&R of the WFTU), as we did in January, once again united and in solidarity with the trade union organizations and with each of their managers and fellow militants, who make common cause, in the world struggle, against exploitation, capitalism and imperialism.

For a long and worthy life. 19/11/2020

(Sd)

Quim Boix General Secretary Trade Unions International (TUI) of Pensioners and Retired People (P&R) World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

(Sd)

Lisímaco Velasco Propaganda Secretary Trade Unions International (TUI) of Pensioners and Retired People (P&R) World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)



Telcos add 37.4 lakh mobile users in August: Trai; BSNL adds 2.14 lakh mobile customers.

Wireless subscribers in the country increased to 114.7 crore at the end of August, with addition of 37.44 lakh users, according to the latest data from telecom regulator Trai. The overall telecom subscriber base (wireless and wireline) increased marginally.

New Delhi: Wireless subscribers in the country increased to 114.7 crore at the end of August, with addition of 37.44 lakh users, according to the latest data from telecom regulator Trai. The overall telecom subscriber base (wireless and wireline) increased marginally to 116.7 crore in August from 116.4 crore in July, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said on Tuesday.

The total wireless subscriber base grew from 114.4 crore at the end of July to 114.7 crore at the end of August, registering a monthly growth rate of 0.33 per cent. Wireless subscription in urban areas rose to 62.4 crore at the end of August, while the same in rural areas decreased to 52.2 crore, it added.

Bharti Airtel added 28.99 lakh users, the highest among the players in August, to take its subscriber base to 32.28 crore. Reliance Jio saw its userbase touching 40.26 crore with the addition of 18.64 lakh users in August. Vodafone Idea lost 12.28 lakh users to take its subscriber base to 30.01 crore at the end of August, the data showed.

State-owned MTNL also lost 6,081 mobile service customers, while BSNL added 2.14 lakh mobile customers.

“Out of the total wireless subscribers (1,147.92 million), 957.43 million were active on the date of peak VLR (visitor location register) in August 2020. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was about 83.41 per cent of the total wireless subscriber base,” Trai said.

Active subscribers are calculated based on reported VLR, a key metric reflecting the number of active users on a mobile network. Bharti Airtel had the maximum proportion (96.85 per cent) of its active wireless subscribers (VLR), compared with its total wireless subscribers (HLR) on the date of peak VLR in August, it said. HLR stands for home location register.

MTNL had the minimum proportion of VLR (18.39 per cent) of its HLR during the same period, Trai said. Fixed-line connections increased marginally to 1.989 crore in August from 1.982 crore in July, it added.

The number of broadband subscribers increased to 71.61 crore in August, from 70.54 crore in the preceding month. The top-five service providers constituted 98.89 per cent market share of the total broadband subscriber base.

These include Reliance Jio Infocomm (40.39 crore), Bharti Airtel (15.89 crore), Vodafone Idea (11.99 crore), BSNL (2.37 crore) and Atria Convergence (about 17 lakh).

(Courtesy: Economic Times)

Boycott Reliance JIO services.

The All India KisanSangarsh Co-Ordination Committee which is spearheading the great and grand Farmers' Struggle has given a call to boycott the products of the corporates, particularly that of Reliance.

Modi government is wholly responsible for the sorry state of affairs in the telecom sector for pursuing a pro- Reliance Jio policy incurring huge losses to all the telecom companies except Reliance Jio. BSNL is not being allowed to start its 4G services despite declaration of a revival package on 23rd October, 2019. When all the private telecom companies are free to purchase equipments from foreign companies and started the 4G service well in advance and now Jio has declared about the launching of 5G services

in the near future, hurdles are purposely created to stall the 4G service of BSNL. It is a known fact that BSNL is the only telecom company still capable of competing Reliance Jio, adding new mobile subscribers while all other telecom companies losing lakhs of subscribers regularly. So, the Modi government is bent upon to kill BSNL for the sake of Reliance Jio. AUAB is fighting against this nefarious onslaught which is supported by AIBDPA.

We can do more in resisting the greedy Jio by boycotting their services and switching over to BSNL by those availing Jio services for whatever reasons. Also, we have to undertake a campaign for boycotting Jio services among the general public in the wake of the call of the farmers.



Make the solidarity dharna on 25-11-2020 a grand success and send email to the Finance Minister on the same date.

Very enthusiastic reports are coming in on the preparation of the National Strike on 26-11-2020 from almost all sections of the workers and the people at large. No doubt the strike will create a new history and milestone in the struggles of the nation.

The call of NCCPA to organise Solidarity Dharna on 25-11-2020 in support of the General Strike has already been communicated to all the units. Let us extend all support to the striking unions in BSNL including CCWF.

All AIBDPA units are once again requested to organise the Dharna on 25-11-2020 jointly with other NCCPA constituents, wherever possible, and independently according to local conditions.

Please also note that all the units have to send the following email to the Finance Minister on 25-11-2020. It is also requested to send brief report and photos to CHQ.

Ms. Nirmala Seetaraman, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi (through e mail)

Her e mail address :- fmo@nic.in

Text of the message:

Dear Madam,

We support the one day general strike of the working class in the country on 26-11-2020 and request you to settle the issues they had projected. We also request you to kindly concede the following important demands of the pensioners urgently;

- a) Release the Dearness Relief impounded
- b) Implement Option No. 1 of pension fitment formula as third option.
- c) Reimburse the medical expenses of all pensioners and clear the medical claims of BSNL pensioners pending since 2018.
- d) Implement the pension revision from 1.1.2017 to BSNL pensioners;
- e) Revise the pension of PNB pensioners without further delay
- f) Restore the rail travel concessions to senior citizens.
- g) Sanction festival grant of Rs.20,000 to pensioners/family pensioners.
- h) Rescind base year change for DA

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

District /Area Secretary,

All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association

CGHS Webinar twice the month.

CGHS, known for providing comprehensive health care services to its beneficiaries, is conducting a series of short webinars of 60-90-minute duration with active participation of its beneficiaries to provide information on common health related issues. These webinars are being scheduled at 4.00 pm on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. A 30-40 minutes presentation by a CGHS Doctor will be followed by 30 minutes of answering of relevant questions from the beneficiaries.

It is expected that these webinars will provide useful information to CGHS beneficiaries and create awareness on various health conditions, provide guidance on promotive care, lifestyle modification and also dispel many health-related myths and doubts. The fifth in the series is being held on 22/12/2020 (Tuesday) at 4.00PM on "Child Health & Immunization with special attention during COVID times" by Dr Rani Gera, HOD Pediatrics, Safdarjung Hospital. The link for attending the webinar is as follows: <https://cghshq.webex.com/meet/adhq.dl>



Pensioners Day and New Challenges.

- K.G. Jayaraj, General Secretary



December 17 is being observed as National Pensioners Day in our country by the Pensioners Organisations. The background for this observance is that it was on this day in 1982 that the Supreme Court pronounced the historic and glorious judgment in D S Nakara's case. The co-petitioners in the case were Rear Admiral Satendra Singh, an officer retired from Indian Navy and an NGO by name "Common Cause".

Shri.D S Nakara was the retired Financial Advisor in the Defense Department and he was compelled to seek legal remedy when the authorities rejected his claim for the liberalized pension implemented in 1979 as per the agreement reached in the National JCM. The liberalized pension was comparatively beneficial to the pensioners. But a cutoff date was stipulated and those who retired on or after 31.03.1979 were only made eligible. It was a naked discrimination against those who retired before 31.03.1979.

It was in 1871 that government employees in India were granted pension first time. The country was under British colonial regime. It was initially a contributory pension scheme being paid at the sweet will of the British authorities. In 1925, the British government appointed a commission, called Royal Commission, to submit recommendations for pension reforms. In its report, the Royal Commission clearly stated that pension should not be contributory, as the government employees are eligible for the pension from the government for the sincere and hard work rendered during their hay days. The British Parliament approved the report and implemented it. This was the first form of statutory Pension Scheme.

However, it was after several struggles by the central government employees that a

comprehensive Pension Rules was approved. It is known as Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. The Indian Parliament approved it after thorough discussion which was drafted in accordance with the provisions 148(5) and 309 of the Constitution of India. There had been several amendments to this Pension Rules later based on the genuine demands of the employees 'organisations and recommendations of various Central Pay Commissions.

But after implementation of the recommendations of each Pay Commission, the gap between the past pensioners and the present pensioners widened to the disadvantage of the past pensioners. In short, the past pensioners were denied the new benefits. This discrimination was the main reason for the case of D S Nakara. Before pension was liberalised, the formula for pension computation was based on the average emoluments of last 36 months service of the employee. In the liberalized pension scheme, pension was computed with the average emoluments of last 10 months' service. A slab system for computation was newly introduced. The ceiling of the pension also was increased. So, pensioners who retired prior to the specified date would suffer triple jeopardy.

The petition was first heard by a single judge of the apex court. But he rightly opined that the case is regarding the Pension Rules, approved by the Parliament according to the constitutional provisions and warrants to be dealt by a constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court. It was accepted and a five judge bench with Justice Y V Chandrachud (Chief Justice), Justice V D Tulzapurkar, Justice D A Desai, Justice O Chinnappa Reddy and Justice Islam Baharul heard the case and pronounced the judgment on 17.12.1982.



The Supreme Court in its historic judgment, struck down the cutoff date portion of the order of the liberal pension as unconstitutional and declared that all pensioners governed by 1972 Rules and Army Pension Regulations shall be entitled to pension as computed under liberalized pension scheme, from the specified date, irrespective of the date of retirement.” It further stated “Pensioners for receiving of pension form a class and there is no criterion on which classification of pensioners retiring prior to the specified date and retire subsequent to that date can provide a rational principle co-related to the object viz, object underlying payment of pensions...”.

The judgment is known as the *“Magna Carta of pensioners because it made significant observation rather an historical perspective about the concept of pension; (i) that Pension is neither a bounty nor a matter of grace depending on the sweet will of the employer and that it creates a vested right subject to 1972 Rules which are statutory in character, because they are enacted in exercise of powers conferred by the Proviso to article 309 and Clause (5) of Article 148 of the Constitution; (ii) that pension is not an ex-gratia payment, but it is a payment for past service rendered; and (iii) that it is a social welfare measure rendering socio-economic justice to those who in the heyday of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on an assurance that in their old age, they would not be left in lurch..”*

It also stressed that *“A Pension Scheme consistent with available resources must provide that the pensioner would be able to live (i) free from want and with decency, independence and self-respect; (ii) at a standard equivalent at the pre-retirement level.”*

But the government after government, instead of ensuring pension according to the spirit of this glorious judgment were indulged in scuttling the very pension system in the country. No surprise, it was part and parcel of the neo-liberal policies being implemented in the country since 1991. Inter

National Monetary Fund and the World Bank, under the control of the imperialist forces, were mounting pressure on the Indian government for reforms in the pension system as well. Thus, it was during the period of the first BJP government with Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpaye as Prime Minister, D K Bhattacharjee Commission was appointed to submit recommendations for pension reforms. The Commission, as directed by the government, submitted its report, recommending a contributory pension scheme in the place of statutory benefit pension scheme.

Prime Minister Vajpaye had no hesitation to implement it through an Executive Order of the government from 01-01-2004 without discussion in the Parliament. Exemption was given to the Armed Forces. Civil employees recruited before 01-01-2004 were also exempted. A Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority was constituted to manage the contributory pension scheme. Prime Minister Vajpaye convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers and asked them to implement it for the respective state government pensioners. So, it was implemented in all the states barring West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala where LDF governments were in power. Later in Kerala and Tripura also the contributory pension scheme was implemented when LDF was voted out of power. However, Vajpaye did not dare to present it in the Parliament as the BJP government was not sure about its adoption. The first UPA government with Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister also could not adopt PFRDA by the Parliament due to stiff opposition of the left parties which supported the government from outside. However, it was during the fag end of the tenure of the 2nd UPA government, on 6th September, 2013, PFRDA was adopted by the Parliament with the full support of BJP, the main opposition party. Left parties and Trinamool Congress only opposed it. So, it has been made an act of the country and the new pension system is now named, National Pension Scheme (NPS). There is a dangerous provision in the PFRDA, namely 12, Clause (5) by which the government, by a notification, can extend the application of PFRDA to any other



pension scheme in the country. It means that the statutory benefit pension scheme is also not secure. Anything is possible in our country under the authoritarian BJP government, particularly in a global scenario where pensioners are being subjected to various forms of attacks in most of the capitalist countries.

Pensioners are facing new challenges after Narendra Modi government came to power. One rank, one pension was not implemented fully as demanded by the war veterans. 7th Pay Commission's only positive recommendation for the pensioners, Option 1 which would have ensured parity in pension to a great extent, was denied by the Modi government on flimsy grounds. BSNL pensioners are denied pension revision due from 01-01-2017. There is absolutely no justification in denying the pension revision linking wage revision in BSNL as the entire liability of pension and pensionary benefits of BSNL absorbed pensioners lies with the central government as per Rule 37A of CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972. The EPF pension for the BSNL recruited employees which is proved to be a 'No Pension system' is continuing without any change. Can you imagine that a BSNL recruited Sr TOA with 15 to 20 years' service is given a paltry Rs.1,200 to Rs.1,300 as pension.? This pathetic situation has to be changed.

Now, under the cover of Covid-19 pandemic, Modi government has unleashed another attack on the pensioners. Dearness Relief of the central government pensioners has been freezed for 18 months, from 01-01-2020 to 30-06-2021 despite the pensioners having voluntarily contributed liberally to the PM Cares Fund/ Chief Ministers' Distress Relief Fund. BSNL pensioners are denied the IDA due from 01-10-2020, even though pensioners are not covered in the DPE order dated 19-11-2020 freezing the IDA of Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs. The aged and ailing BSNL pensioners are denied medical benefits under BSNL MRS for the last two and half years. AIBDPA brought this serious issue

to CMD, BSNL several times, Secretary, DoT, Hon'ble Minister for Communications and finally to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, but of no avail. We conducted a number of agitations also on this issue.

We are witnessing the fascist tendencies of Modi government which has adopted the three labour codes replacing 44 labour laws with the ulterior motive of treating the workers as slaves. We have also seen the passage of three anti-farmer agrarian laws in the Parliament quite undemocratically throwing the poor farmers to the mercy of the greedy corporate. So let us not be surprised of getting inflict more aggressive attacks on pensioners by the Modi regime. It is under this background that the wild campaign of 'One Nation, One Pension' of the Sanghparivars is to be seen. They say that there should be a uniform pension of Rs.10,000 to all those crossed 60 years. They don't present any estimate for the total expenditure required to implement the slogan to crores of elders. They don't demand the central government to increase the old age pension of Rs.300 to at least Rs.1,000. So, it is a well planned conspiracy mooted at higher level to target the central government, state government and PSU pensioners who draw statutory benefit pension. It has to be exposed among the people that the amount of pension reduced from these section of pensioners may contribute only a small portion of the total expenditure required, and there is no proposal to allocate the huge balance amount. The only intention behind such a slogan is to sabotage the statutory pension scheme.

When we observe the National Pensioners Day this time, let us reaffirm the pledge to continue and intensify the struggles more vigorously, not only by the pensioners but also jointly with the workers to resist the nefarious attacks of the Modi government and to get back the snatched benefits of the pensioners.

(English translation of the article published in Malayalam in the Desabhimani daily dated 15-12-2020; of course with minor changes.) ■



Senior Citizens are assets of the Nation.

V.A.N.Namboodiri

Number of senior citizens, those above 60 years of age, is on the increase every year. It was 90 crores in world in 2017 and is expected to cross 200 crore by 2050. In India, the number was 10.4 crores in 2011 and is expected to increase to more than 17 crores by 2025.

Life expectancy in India increased from 59.7 years to women and 59 to men in 1991 to 66.9 years and 63.87 years respectively by 2001. It has further increased since then.

Senior citizens, in their hay days had contributed much to the nation, whether they were government employees, workers, kisans, traders or in any other sphere. They have got a lot of experience and are mostly experts in their respective fields.

Nobody can escape ageing, which is a natural phenomenon. Ageing has its special problems. One will not be able to work as before, cannot strain much, increase weakness and various ailments appear requiring treatment. They require help from others even for their daily existence. Gradually, they are restricted to their homes, fully depending upon others.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 passed by the Parliament is an important document which gives in detail about the rights of the senior citizens and the government's responsibility to give support and maintenance to them. The states can frame their own acts and rules in consonance with the above act.

Though the Act was passed in 2007, many states have not implemented it in its full spirit. Some states have effectively taken up the matter. In this connection, I would like to mention here, how

the Kerala Government is implementing many plans for the benefit of the senior citizens.

Kerala had adopted its Senior Citizens' Policy and Programme of Action in 2006, which was updated in 2013 taking in to consideration the experiences gained during the period. A series of actions on social security, health, treatment, recreation and other such matters were implemented by the government. The Senior Citizens Friends Welfare Association, the largest association of its kind in the state had taken many important issues of the aged, discussed with the government and got it implemented. A few of the important issues are given below:

1. Ashwas Kiran Programme under which assistance is given up to Rs. 600 per month to those assisting and caring the aged people who are laid up due to disease both mentally and physically.
2. Vayomitram Programme, which is intended to provide effective free treatment to the aged people including mobile clinic, counseling and free medicine. It also provides free conveyance for patients to hospital and return.
3. Snehasparsham programme is to support unmarried mothers with children, with no support.
4. Providing Old Age Homes, health Care and specialized care for older persons. Many other such social security programmes are implemented.

Old Age Pension

Kerala LDF Government during the last four years has increased the Vayojana Pension from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1500 and the same is paid to the concerned person at home in the same month itself. The SCFWA has demanded that it should



be increased to Rs.5,000 which the government has agreed to consider according to its financial position. This pension is being paid to those who do not have any other pension, including to those EPF pensioners whose pension is below Rs. 4,000.

Vayojana Councils

Vayojana Councils are constituted at State and District levels. The state council is headed by the Minister for Social Security and by District Panchayath President at District level. SCFWA is represented in all these councils and the important issues are discussed and decisions taken on the spot. 5% of the total budget amount of the Panchayaths/ Corporations etc. are to be utilized for the benefit of senior citizens. Many programmes are introduced for the safety of older persons. The police have to enquire about the old aged who are staying alone and take necessary action in case of any problems. Seats are reserved for old aged in the buses and other public places.

Though the central government had passed 2007 Act, much is not done. The center is paying a meager amount of Rs. 200 as Vayojana Pension. It has got to be increased. During Covid period, the central government has withdrawn the 50% train ticket concession eligible for women aged 58 and above and 40% concession to men aged

60 and above. SCFWA has demanded its restoration.

SCFWA

Senior Citizens Friends Welfare Association is a well knitted organization, spread over the entire state of Kerala. It has got units at state, district, area and unit levels. It regularly holds its meetings and discusses the various issues of the aged. It interacts with the government and local self government authorities and various levels and ensures that justice is meted out to the senior citizens. It could restore property to the parents, where their children refuse to look after them after getting property legally transferred to them. SCFWA has also demanded that Covid vaccine should be given to senior citizens after the same is given to the health workers, which Kerala Government has agreed.

SCFWA publish a magazine, “Vayojana Vartha”, with articles and importance information required for senior citizens.

I am not sure whether there are such organisations working in other states. Probably it may be there. To protect the rights and ensure social security to the aged, such an organization is required at the all India level also. Initiative in this matter is urgently required.

(Author of this article is President of SCFWA, Kerala).



AIBDPA & BSNLEU delegation from Punjab & Haryana, visited the agitating farmers at Singhu, Delhi on 10-12-2020 & 17.12.2020.



Bonus Convention at New Delhi



V.A.N. Namboodiri, Advisor, AIBDPA

After the National Convention and demand of Bonus for All, employees understood that Bonus was not a gratis of the employer, but the right of the workers as deferred wage. NFPTE led by KG Bose – Rajan group decided to organize a Bonus Convention in Delhi making the issue in the frontline.

It was therefore decided that the Bonus Convention will be held on 10th December along with a P&T Workers Convention on 11th and E.D. Employees Convention on 12th December 1972. These conventions were to be participated by thousands of workers and the leadership made all the arrangements. NFPTE led by Gupta-Pirmanathan group, despite request did not agree to participate. As such this was also planned as a show of strength on the part of KG – Rajan group.

Bonus Convention on 10th December 1972.

Bonus convention was organized under the auspices of Confederation, AISGEF and NFPTE (KG – Rajan group). More than 2,500 delegates participated from all parts of India despite severe cold and adverse climate. A huge pandal was erected in the spacious lawns of the Community Hall in Block No. 28 for the convention which was overflowing with the delegates.

The Presidium consisted of K.G.Bose (NFPTE), K.N.Nayagam (Confederation) and Arbindo Ghosh (AISGEF). S.K.Vyas(Confederation), R.G.Karnik (AISGEF) and A.S.Rajan (NFPTE) constituted the Steering Committee to conduct the proceedings.

The Convention adopted a detailed resolution demanding 'Bonus for All' including for Central/State Government employees. An Open session was held in the afternoon, which was addressed by well known economist Dr. Gyan Chand, Prof. Madhu Dantawade, M.P., Dr. Mathew Kurien, M.P., R.P.Manchanda(AIIEA), Gyan Chand (UTUC LS), George Fernandez(HMP), P.Ramamurthy (CITU) and other leaders, who supported the demand raised by the government employees. They established with

well founded points that Bonus is not related to profit or productivity, but is only deferred wage and the workers are eligible for the same as per the Bonus Act. The government employees can not be denied this right. The Convention was a great success. It called upon the workers to observe 19th January 1973 as 'Bonus for All Day.'

P&T Convention on 11-12- 1972.

A P&T Convention was held in the same venue next day, presided by K.G.Bose, President NFPTE. A.S.Rajan, SG NFPTE, K.Adinarayana (GS P.IV), R.S.Yadav (VP NFPTE) and other leaders addressed and exposed the disruption of NFPTE by O.P.Gupta group creating non-existent disputes and trying to destroy the organization. Instead accepting the democratically elected office-bearers, they were compromising with the administration on the important demands of the workers. The Convention adopted a resolution demanding cancellation of recognition granted to fake list in the Federation and granting recognition to the duly elected list of K.S.Bose / A.S.Rajan Group.

The Convention converted itself in to a massive procession and moved to Raisina roundabout walking for more than 4-5 kilometres passing through Patel Road and Pusa Road. Communications Minister H.N.Bahuguna came to the place and accepted the Memorandum presented by the leaders. Later a delegation led by K.G.Bose, A.S.Rajan, K.Adinarayana, N.J.Iyer, Pt. kishan Chand and L.A.Prasad met the Minister in his residence and discussed the issues presented in the Memorandum including the demand for recognition of the democratically elected NFPTE leaders.

ED Employees Convention on 13.12.1972.

The ED Convention held on 13-12-1972 was also participated by thousands of workers. K.Adinarayana, General Secretary, P.IV Union presented the hard working conditions and low wages of the brutally exploited ED employees. ED leaders



from various circles spoke on the demands. A Resolution and appeal to Members of Parliament were adopted by the convention. The ED Convention was a declaration of the P&T employees that they will unitedly fight for the cause of the ED employees.

The large number of participants in the conventions, the high level of discussions and the important decisions taken once again showed the vitality of the organization and the support to the KG.Bose-AS Rajan group among the P&T employees.

JCM P&T Departmental Council inaugurated.

Dropping the earlier demand of 25 seats and that no seats should be allotted to FNPTO, Gupta group accepted the truncated JCM Department Council. It was inaugurated by Communications Minister, H.N.Bahuguna, on 28th December 1972.

K.G.Bose – A.S.Rajan group did not participate. Instead, the leaders including Sadaram Tanwar, V.S.Joshi, L.A.Prasad, K.Adinarayana, A.S.Rajan, R.P.Chatterjee, N.J.Iyer, R.P.Bhatia and other leaders sat on Dharna at Dak Bhavan where the JCM was being held and shouted slogans against the participation of the disruptors in the JCM.

'Bonus for All Day' on 19-01-1973.

As per the call of the Bonus Convention held on 10th December 1972, the 'Bonus for All Day' was observed by organizing demonstrations and dharnas. Workers actively participated.

Release III CPC Report – Confederation.

As per the call of the Confederation of CG Employees and Workers, central government employees had organized day long dharna on 12th July 1972 demanding early release of the Report. The success of this programme compelled the CPC to give an assurance that the report will be finalized and released before 31-12-1972. But this was also not adhered to.

The inordinate delay was intolerable. The Confederation met and decided for the following programmes:

1. 24 hours Fast by Members of Executive Committee of all organisations of CG Employees in front of their work spots on 31st January 1973
2. Pay Refusal on 1st February 1973 or such other day on which pay for January 1973 is disbursed.

3. Office-bearers, Members of the national Executive of the Confederation and other CHQ leaders of affiliates functioning from Delhi will be sitting on 24 hours fast in Delhi in front of Prime Minister's residence on 31-01-1973.

All the programmes were successfully held in all central places. The pay strike was about 85% to 99%. The March to the Prime Minister's residence was massively participated. OPG, Madhusudanan and D.Gnaniah made all efforts to disrupt the programme, but utterly failed.

Another series of agitational programmes were organized from 2nd April 1973 to 28th April 1973 culminating in Joint Mass Rallies. The demands included 8.33% of Bonus to all, Minimum Wage of Rs. 250/- Full neutralization in cost of living, 30/60 of the last pay drawn as Pension, vacation of all victimization etc.

Bonus Review Committee.

NFPTTE led by KG-Rajan group submitted detailed memorandum to the Bonus Review Committee on 10th March 1973. The main points were:

- Minimum Bonus of 8.33% to all workers
- It should be treated as deferred wage
- No discrimination to government employees.

III CPC submits Report.

The Third Central Pay Commission submitted its report on 31-03-1973. It was completely retrograde as can be seen from the following:

1. Minimum Wage was recommended as Rs. 185/- instead of Rs. 250/-
2. Scales of pay have been reduced.
3. Reduced the % of DA.
4. Date of effect is only from 01-01-1973.
5. Increment rate was very low.
6. No increase in HRA rate.
7. OTA withdrawn in many cases.

The Historic Convention on 15-16 April 1973 at Jaipur.

The retrograde report of the III Pay Commission compelled the Confederation, NFPTTE (both Groups) and other Federations to hold a joint convention, which was held at Jaipur on 15-16 April 1973, under the chairmanship of B.K.Nag Choudhary, Vice-Chairman Confederation. While S.K.Vyas, SG Confederation, A.S.Rajan, SG NFPTTE, N.J.Iyer,



K. Adinarayana and others demanded for immediate action programmes against the CPC recommendations, OPG, D. Gnaniah and their group tried to derail the direct action. After the conveners of the Co-Ordinating committees spoke, most of whom favoured agitational programmes, the Convention adopted resolutions on 1) CPC Report 2) Policy and programme 3) Against disruption of Confederation 4) Victimisation etc. To compel the government to agree to the demands raised by the Confederation it was decided to organize 1) Unity Day on May Day 2) Mass dharna on 9-11 May 1973 wearing black badges and 3) Pay as follows on the movement and collect a fighting fund. The Convention called upon the dissenting leaders to stop disruptive activities and appealed to co-operate with the Confederation decisions.

Preparation for United Struggles.

The release of the retrograde report of the III Pay Commission resulted in compulsion between the warring groups in NFPTE as well as Confederation to sit together and discuss. The efforts of the government to utilize the reformist group leaders like A.P. Sharma, J.P. Chaubey, Madhusudan, O.P. Gupta, Raghbir etc. to disrupt the move for united actions created difficulties. But the progressive group under the leadership of S.K. Vyas ensured that correct demands are raised and united action takes place. The demand of Need Based Minimum Wage, grant of automatic DA and Bonus for was included in the Memorandum submitted by S.K. Vyas.

1. Unity Day on May Day 1973
2. Mass squatting on 9-11 May by wearing black badges.
3. Pay Strike on 1st June 1973.

The convention also appealed for building abroad based united movement and collection of strike fund. In order to bring an agreed programme, a meeting of the P&T leaders belonging both groups in NFPTE and FNTD were held during entire month of May 1973 at Delhi. After a series of discussions, certain understanding was reached. Coms. K.G. Bose, N.J. Iyer, K. Adinarayana, K. Pirmanathan, O.P. Gupta, D. Gnaniah, R.P. Chattejee, Raghbir Singh, K. Ramamurthy and other leaders participated. Though O.P. Gupta group was not for united approach, detailed discussion had some effect and the following programme was adopted.

1. Joint Protest Meeting on 14-06-1973
2. Joint P&T Convention during the first week of July
3. A joint C.G. Convention.

Joint CGE and P&T Convention at Vijayawada, 9-11 June 1973.

A well attended P&T Employees as also CG employees took place at Vijayawada on 9-11 June 1973 to discuss about the recommendations of the III CPC and plan programme of actions. A resolution was passed opposing the retrograde recommendations and to organize action programmes.

UCTU Convention at Delhi.

The Central Trade Unions along with the All India Federations of Central, State, government employees organized an All India Convention in the name of United Council of Trade Unions (UCTU). It was presided over by B.T. Ranadive, Jatin Chakraborty, Chitta Basu and Satish Chandra.

The main agenda was the III CPC although the general economic crisis and the unemployment also were discussed. George Fernandez (HMS), K. Anandan Nambiar (DREU), K.G. Bose (NFPTE), B.K. Nag Choudhary (Defence), Dipen Ghosh (CC W. Bengal), R.G. Karnik (AISGEF), Sukomal Sen (AISGEF), K.N. Nayagam (ITEF), S.K. Vyas (Confederation), A.S. Rajan (NFPTE), Barada Bhattacharjee (Audit), K. Adinarayana (NFPTE) and many other leaders addressed. They criticized the CPC recommendations strongly and called for united action to fight for the long pending demands.

Massive Parliament Rally.

After the convention the delegates and visitors numbering more than 5,000 marched to the Boat Club lawns, where a rally was held with Nag Choudhary presiding. (The Boat Club maidhan where the republic parade is being organized was permitted for rallies of trade unions, political parties etc. during that time. It was stopped later) B.T. Ranadive (CITU) and leaders of the central and state government employees addressed. A resolution was adopted with the following demands.

- 1) Bonus for All.
- 2) Against retrograde recommendations of the Pay Commission.



- 3) EDA Demands 4. State Government Employees Strike.
- 4) Against Victimisation.
- 5) Mass campaigns on demands.
- 6) Demanding withdrawal of Defence of India Rules (DIR) and Ban on Strikes.

About 40 unions/associations in addition to the central TUs participated. I had the opportunity to attend this Convention and Parliament Rally representing the Confederation of Calicut (Kozhikode) and the same inspired me very much, meeting the all India leaders and hearing their speeches.

Government accepted CPC Recommendations.

The government announced acceptance of the Pay Commission recommendations on 18th October 1973

without any modifications as demanded by the unions. The minimum wage was fixed at Rs. 185/- whereas the demand of the CG employees was Rs. 314 as per the need based minimum wage calculated on the basis of the 15th ILC recommendations. The Central government employees were very much disappointed. The most retrograde and anti-employee decisions created compulsions on all organizations and leaders to come together and discuss things, despite organizational disputes and differences.

The reaction was immediate. A Demands Day was observed on 19th October throughout the country by holding rallies, demonstrations and dharnas with massive participation. Continuing, a Pay Strike was organized on 1st December. Both the groups, led by K.G.Bose and O.P.Gupta jointly participated in these programmes. ■

General Strike of November 26- A spectacular success.

The countrywide General Strike called by the 10 Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations on November 26, 2020 turned to be the largest Strike in the world. It is reported that more than 25 crore workers have participated in the Strike. The strike was responded by all sections of the workers and farmers and in some of the states like Kerala it was complete Bundh. So, the working class in the country has created another history and it will be marked as a great milestone in the struggles of the country.

In BSNL also the strike, called by the 8 unions under the leadership of BSNLEU, was held successfully. AIBDPA salutes all the participants in the strike. The pensioners under the auspices of NCCPA have organised Solidarity Dharna very successfully all over the country in support of the General Strike. All the

units of the affiliated pensioners organisations have also sent email to the Finance Minister supporting the Strike and raising the important pensioners issues on 25-11-2020.

The General Strike was necessitated due to the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-people policies of the Narendra Modi Government. The Government completely neglected the genuine demands raised by the Central Trade Unions and never took the initiative for a negotiated settlement. This has clearly exposed the undemocratic stand of the ruling class.

No doubt, the spectacular success of the strike is a befitting warning to the Modi government and more intensified struggles may continue to be waged, if not the just demands are not conceded.

National Pensioners' Day observed all over the country.

As per the call of CHQ, National Pensioners' Day has been observed on 17-12-2020 with flag hoistings, meetings etc in almost all circles. Com.V A N Namboodiri, Patron, NCCPA and Advisor, AIBDPA delivered the keynote address online in the large meeting held by Co-Ordination Committee of Pensioners Organisations, Karnataka.

Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary inaugurated the meeting held by Kozhikode District Branch online. Com. V A N Namboodiri, Advisor also addressed the

meeting. The leaders explained the significance of the historic judgment of the constitution Bench of Supreme Court delivered on 17-12-1982 in the D S Nakara case, attacks on pension and the duty to strengthen the organisation to fight against the injustice.

Both Com. V A N Namboodiri and Com.K G Jayaraj also participated in the webinar organised by CHQ AIPRPA online and greeted. Com.K Ragavendran, General Secretary, AIPRPA and Com.M Krishnan, Ex.Secretary General, Confederation presented papers.



Organisational Report

Haryana.

New District branch formed at Jind in Haryana Circle.

The sincere and relentless efforts of Com.Kuldeep Singh is yielding the desired results. District Branch has been formed at Jind also. The meeting held for this purpose on 22-11-2020 was inaugurated by Com.Kuldeep Singh, Circle Secretary. The important issues of the pensioners including pension revision, non-payment of medical claims and the Solidarity Dharna on 25-11-2020 in support of the General Strike of 26-11-2020 were explained in the inaugural address.

A 19 member office bearers were elected unanimously and the following are the important functionaries;

President:Com.Rambir Singh, District Secretary: Com.Raj Kumar Saini and Treasurer : Com.Shishpal

Sonipat District Branch in Haryana reconstituted.

Sonipat District Branch functioning was affected due to the illness of the incumbent District Secretary for some time. Com.Kuldeep Singh, Circle Secretary took the initiative to reconstitute the district branch to ensure proper and efficient functioning. Accordingly, a meeting of the district branch was held on 21-11-2020 under the presidentship of Com. Ashok Arya.

Com.M.S.Kadian, Circle Patron and Circle Secretary, BSNLEU inaugurated the meeting. Com.Kuldeep Singh, Circle Secretary delivered the keynote address. Both leaders explained the issues of pension revision, non-payment of medical claims, revival of BSNL, Solidarity Dharna on 25-11-2020 in support of the General Strike on 26-11-2020.

Thereafter, the District Branch was reconstituted unanimously with the following important functionaries;

President :Com.Nand Kumar, District Secretary : Com. Mahesh Singh and Treasurer : Com. Ashok Arya.

Maharashtra

Amravati District conference held.

Amravati District in Maharashtra has held its District Conference befittingly on 10-12-2020. Sufficient Covid-19 protocol was maintained in the physical conference. Coms.R N Patil, Circle Secretary and A S Choudhary, CHQ Organising Secretary addressed online and guided the conference. Both leaders

congratulated the District Branch for its active functioning and holding the conference. They also explained the issues confronting the pensioners, particularly VRS retirees, and the relentless efforts of CHQ and Circle for settlement.

Office bearers have been elected unanimously with the following important functionaries;

President :Com.Abdul Shamim: District Secretary : Com. R S Raut: Treasurer : Com. G R Gadge

UP(West).

New District Branch of Shamli formed in UP(W) Circle.

A new district branch of Shamli has been formed bifurcating Muzaffarnagar SSA branch. The meeting for this purpose was held on 09-11-2020 at BSNL office, Shamli under the presidentship of Com.Ram Sharan. Com. Balkar Singh, Circle Vice President inaugurated the meeting and explained the current issues confronting the pensioners.

A 17 members Office bearers were elected with the following important functionaries;

President :Com.Sukhan Singh, District Secretary : Com. Ram Sharan and Treasurer : Ramesh Chand.

Mainpuri District Branch in UP (W) circle formed.

A new District Branch has been formed in Mainpuri on 18-11-2020. The meeting of pensioners held for this purpose was held at Old Telephone Exchange, Mainpuri.

The meeting elected the office bearers unanimously and the following are the important functionaries;

President : Com. Ahibaran Singh
District Secretary : Com. Shiva Prasad
Treasurer : Com. Ravindra Singh Pal

Tamil Nadu.

New area branch formed at Edappadi under Salem district.

A new Area Branch has been formed at Edappadi under Salem District in Tamil Nadu Circle. The meeting held for this purpose on 08-11-2020 was presided over by Com. P Shanmugam and inaugurated by Com. S Tamilmani, Circle Vice President, BSNLEU. Com.N Kuppusamy, Circle Secretary delivered the special address.



Office Bearers were elected unanimously with the following important functionaries;

President :Com.S Vijay Sundaram, Secretary : Com. P Shanmugam and Treasurer : Com. D Saravanan.

Kolkata (TF & TS)

Kolkata Telecom Factory & Stores meeting held on 10-11-2020.

The meeting of Kolkata Telecom Factory & Stores has been held physically on 10-11-2020 at the BSNLEU Circle Union Office in Telecom Factory, Kolkata.

Inaugurating the meeting, Com.Adhir Kr Sen, CHQ Vice President and Circle Secretary explained the issues confronting the pensioners including present position of pension revision, non-payment of medical bills, change of base year of CPI, revival of BSNL and the General Strike on 26-11-2020 by Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations.

The meeting decided to participate in the strike campaign and in the Solidarity Dharana called by NCCPA on 25-11-2020.

AP Circle Executive Committee meeting held online successfully on 05-11-2020.

As directed by the CHQ the online meeting of AIBDPA AP CIRCLE CEC held on 05/11/2020.Com.KG Jayaraj, General Secretary in his inaugural address explained the present national situation, Pension revision and medical bills payment.He congratulated AP Comrades for successfully conducting the programmes and requested to observe NCCPA programme of standing Dharna on 25/11/2020 on pensioners demands and to actively support the general strike on 26/11/2020 called by the central trade unions.

Com.P.Asokababu Vice-President CHQ explained in detail the present position of BSNL and demands of the pensioners and requested the pensioner community to participate in strike call given by BSNL Unions on 26/11/2020. Com.K.Ramadevi

Vice-President CHQ BSNLEU thanked the pensioners for participating in all programmes of AUAB and requested to extend the same co-operation on 26/11/2020.Com.K.S.C.Bose CS congratulated all DSs for making the calls of the CHQ successful and gave brief report on the organisational position in AP Circle. Com.M.S.N.Reddy, Treasurer submitted financial report. 7 circle office bearers and 7 District Secretariess participated in discussion on organisation and problems. 2 District Secretaries could not join the meeting due to connectivity problems. Circle Secreary replied on the points raised during discussion and requested the members to make NCCPA programme on 25/11/2020 and to support the general strike on 26/11/2020.The CEC concluded after Com.T.Nageswararao proposed Vote of thanks.

Maharashtra Circle Executive Committee meeting held online on 10-11-2020.

Maharashtra Circle has held the Circle Executive Committee Meeting online on 10-11-2020. Com.B G Suryavanshi, Circle President presided over the meeting. Com.R N Patil, Circle Secretary welcomed all and presented a brief report.

Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary inaugurated the meeting. He congratulated the Circle Branch for earnest efforts to widen our membership and formation of new district branches. General Secretary explained the recent developments covering the issues of VRS retirees, particularly ST category and the efforts of CHQ for settlement. He also reported the present position with regard to

pension revision and non-payment of medical bills and allowances. The decision of the National Secretariat of NCCPA to hold Solidarity Dharna on 25-11-2020 in support of the General Strike on 26-11-2020, in which Pensioners issues like pension revision, non-payment of medical bills and allowance, DR freezing, change in the base year of Consumer Price Index are included, was also reported. Email also to be sent to the Finance Minister by all units on 25-11-2020.

Com.A S Chaudhary, CHQ Organising Secretary spoke on organisational issues and appealed to further strengthen the organisation.



Kerala Circle Executive Committee meeting held online on 07-11-2020.

Com. V A N Namboodiri, Advisor inaugurated the Kerala Circle Executive Committee Meeting held online on 07-11-2020. He started his inaugural address reminding the importance of the day, 103th Anniversary of the great October Revolution and its impact on world countries. Com. V A N briefly spoke on the important issues confronting the workers, pensioners and the people at large and appealed to extend solidarity to the general Strike on 26-11-2020 called by the central trade unions and independent federations.

Coms. K R R Varma and E P Unnikannan, Vice Presidents controlled the proceedings. Com. N Guruprasad, Circle Secretary welcomed all the participants and presented the report for the intervening period.

Com.P V Chandrasekharan, Patron in his address highlighted the struggles conducted by AIBDPA for the settlement of important demands like pension revision and non-payment of medical bills and allowance. He stressed for further agitation despite some of the pensioners organisations seeking legal remedy for pension revision.

Speaking on organisational issues, Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary dealt on the serious national situation, general strike on 26-11-2020 and decision of National Secretariat of NCCPA to hold solidarity Dharna on 25-11-2020 in which pensioners issues like DR freezing, Option 1, pension revision of BSNL

pensioners, denial of medical facilities to BSNL retirees, restoration of Railway concession are also included. He also appealed to strengthen the organisation by enrolling more retirees despite the Covid-19 pandemic situation. General Secretary also congratulated the Kerala Circle Branch for ideal and systematic functioning, taking up the issues of the pensioners with right earnest and settlement through continuous efforts. The relief fund collection to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund is also praiseworthy.

Coms.SMohandoss, CHQ Vice President, R Muraleedharan Nair, AGS, R. Aravindakshan Nair, CHQ Treasurer, C Santhoshkumar, Circle Secretary, BSNLEU and Lucy Isac, Convenor, Circle Womens Sub Committee also addressed the meeting. Thereafter, all the District Secretaries and most of the Circle Office bearers participated in the discussion. The discussion mainly centered on non-payment of medical bills and allowance, CGHS issues and pension revision. General Secretary and Circle Secretary replied to the queries raised in the meeting.

The meeting decided to conduct Solidarity Dharna on 25-11-2020 in maximum centers in support of the General Strike on 26-11-2020, adhering to Covid-19 protocol. 40 comrades participated in the meeting and concluded with vote of thanks by Com.K J Sanalkumar, Circle Treasurer.

U P(W) Circle held Circle Executive Committee meeting online.

UP (W) Circle has won the distinction of holding the first virtual meeting of the Circle Executive Committee on 25-10-2020.

The meeting started with paying rich tribute to the founder Circle Secretary, Com.Abdul Rashid. Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary inaugurated the meeting with a brief speech as the meeting was scheduled to conclude within one hour. General Secretary focused on the important issues of denial of medical facilities to the retirees in a cruel and discriminatory manner by the BSNL management

and Pension Revision. He assured that decision for another phased program of agitation will be taken in due course. Com.S S Maurya, Circle Secretary presented the report and Com.R V Singh, Treasurer briefed on the financial position.

Com.Mohammed Israil, Circle President controlled the proceedings. In the discussion, Comrades expressed strong resentment against the continuing denial of medical facilities.

CHQ congratulates UP(W) Circle for holding the CEC meeting online.



Tamil Nadu Circle Executive Committee meeting held online successfully.

Tamil Nadu Circle has also held its Circle Executive Committee Meeting virtually on 27-10-2020 most successfully. The meeting started at 1015hrs and continued upto 1800hrs. and almost all the District Secretaries and Circle Office Bearers participated.

Com.C K Narasimhan, Circle President presided over the meeting. Rich tributes were offered to those passed away during the intervening period, including Coms. Manual Paulraj, District Secretary, Madurai, Com.Radhakrishnan, District Secretary, Karaikudi and Com.D Gopalan, District Secretary, Tirunelveli. Com.M Selvaraj, Asst Circle Secretary welcomed the participants.

Inaugurating the CEC, Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary dealt on the current national developments of passing the Farmer Amendment Bill and 3 labour codes replacing the 44 labour laws in a most undemocratic manner, intended to suit the interests of Corporates . The atrocities against the minorities and Dalits are increasing day by day and not a single day passes without rape and murder of minor girls, particularly in UP. Modi government has completely failed to address the post Covid-19 pandemic situation which has rendered lakhs of workers jobless and no real relief extended to them. The privatisation spree of PSUs is continuing unabated which warranted the workers of Ordnance Factories to decide for a three days strike, though postponed temporarily. It is under this situation that the Central Trade Unions and Independent Federations have given a clarion call of a country wide Strike on 26th November, 2020, putting forward the demands of all sections, including pensioners. AIBDPA has already declared its support and solidarity. General Secretary also explained the present position with regard to the important issues of denial of medical facilities to BSNL retirees and Pension Revision. Even after successful conduct of Standing Dharna on 19th August, 2020, the CMD, BSNL is continuing his arrogant and discriminatory

stand without allotting fund to clear the pending medical bills, payment of medical allowances and one time subscription paid to CGHS. Regarding pension revision due from 01-01-2017, we have to continue our efforts, though some of the pensioners organisations have approached CAT, New Delhi for legal remedy and the outcome being unpredictable. CHQ will take a decision for another phased program of agitation at the appropriate time. Meanwhile BSNLEU has decided for a phased program of agitation culminating in a Strike in November, 2020 demanding immediate launching of 4G services by BSNL, Pay Revision and Pension Revision and AIBDPA is committed to support and participate. General Secretary also answered the queries raised in the meeting.

Com. Babu Radhakrishnan, Circle Secretary, BSNLEU and Com.Vinodkumar, Circle Secretary, BSNL CCWF greeted the CEC meeting.

Com.N.Kuppusamy, Circle Secretary presented the report on activities and Com Nataraja, Treasurer briefed on the financial position. All the District Secretaries and most of the Circle Office Bearers participated in the discussion. Summing up the discussion, Com.S. Mohandoss, CHQ Vice President spoke on the tasks to be undertaken for the advancement of the organisation. Com.K.Pankajavalli, CHQ Asst Treasurer though present could not address the meeting due to some technical snag. The decisions of the meeting, based on the discussions and speeches of General Secretary and CHQ Vice President, were presented by Com.N.Kuppusamy, Circle Secretary and approved.

Tamil Nadu Circle is known for its systematic functioning and taking up the issues of the pensioners in right earnest. CHQ heartily congratulates Tamil Nadu Circle Branch for holding the CEC meeting online in compliance of CHQ directive.

Rajasthan Circle Executive Committee meeting held online.

The Circle Executive Committee Meeting of Rajasthan has been held online on 18-12-2020. Com.KP. Sharma, Circle President presided over the meeting. The meeting paid homages to those members died due to Covid-19 during the intervening period.

Com. M K Nagpal, Circle Secretary presented the report and explained the present situation on the important issues; pension revision and non-payment of medical benefits. District Secretaries and most of the Circle Office bearers participated in the discussion.



Chhattisgarh Circle Executive Committee meeting held online.

Chhattisgarh Circle has held its Executive Committee Meeting online on 26-12-2020 successfully. Com. P C Tiwari, Circle President controlled the proceedings. Com. R.P.Atmapoojya, Circle Secretary welcomed all the participants and presented the report and accounts for the interim period. In the report the implementation of struggles conducted demanding pension revision and non-payment of medical benefits, observance of AIBDPA formation Day and Pensioners' Day were narrated.

Com. V A N Namboodiri, Advisor inaugurated the CEC meeting and briefed on the important issues of the pensioners including pension revision and denial of medical benefits. The continuing efforts and struggles by CHQ for settlement were also explained. He also stressed the importance of the glorious struggle of the farmers. Com. K G Jayaraj, General Secretary in his elaborate address, dealt on the anti-people and anti-worker policy of Modi government. Though three stimulus packages were declared to tide

over the grave economic situation in the country, the corporate and the richest are the real beneficiaries. The anti-worker labour codes and the anti-farmer agrarian acts reflects the pro corporate stand of the government. The workers have shown their protest and anger through a historic strike on 26-11-2020. The farmers struggle is unparalleled and the biggest the country ever witnessed. General Secretary also explained the struggles and continuing efforts of CHQ for a satisfactory settlement on important issues and now the BSNL management has allotted fund for the clearance of with voucher claims up to 31-03-2019. He emphasised on strengthening the organisation by enrolling new members and efforts should be continued to bring in more VRS retirees.

Com. S C Bhattacharjee, Circle Advisor also addressed the meeting and the issues raised by him and some other comrades were replied by the General Secretary. The meeting came to an end with vote of thanks by the President.

Telangana Circle Executive Committee meeting held successfully.

Circle Executive Committee meeting of Telangana has been held at BSNL Bhawan, Hyderabad on 05.12.2020. Com. Veeraswami, Circle President controlled the proceedings. Com. Ramachandradu, Circle Secretary welcomed and presented the report.

Com. D Shankar, CHQ Vice President addressed the meeting and explained the issues of pensioners. BSNL management has now allotted funds to clear the medical bills, both indoor and outdoor, up to 31-03-2019. The struggles conducted and the continuous efforts of AIBDPA has finally yielded

the result. But the success is partial, as medical allowance or without voucher is not being paid and also the payment after 31-03-2019 has to be achieved. So also pension revision.

Com. G. Sambasiva Rao, Asst Circle Secretary, BSNLEU also addressed and gave a gist of the situation prevailing in BSNL and the nefarious game of the central government to kill BSNL. Thereafter, the District Secretaries and most of the Circle Office Bearers participated in the discussion. The CEC decided to strengthen AIBDPA and reconstitute Adilabad Branch.





ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

[Registered No. S/68836/2010]

Central Head Quarters

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Patron : P.V. Chandrasekharan

President: A.K. Bhattacharjee

AIBDPA/CEC- VIR/2021

1st January, 2021

To

All CHQ Office Bearers
and Circle Secretaries.

NOTICE

Dear Comrade,

It is hereby notified that in accordance with the provision 15 of the constitution, the Central Executive Committee Meeting of All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association will be held virtually on 23rd January, 2021. The meeting will be held from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM utilising Zoom Application. Com.A K Bhattacharjee, President will preside over the meeting.

The following shall be the agenda.

1. Report and Accounts.
2. Problems of the pensioners.
 - (i) Pension revision
 - (ii) Non-payment of Medical claims & CGHS
 - (iii) Freezing of DR & Withholding of IDA
 - (iv) Issues of the VRS pensioners
3. NCCPA
4. TUI(P&R)
5. Revival of BSNL
6. Organisational matters
 - (a) Functioning of CHQ, Circle and District Branches
 - (b) Amalgamation of Telecom Factories with the composite circles and reorganization of Circles.
 - (c) Enrolling of VRS retirees
 - (d) Tele Pensioner.
7. Labour Codes and Agrarian laws
8. Covid-19 Pandemic - Our task on the cause of the suffering people.
9. Other items, if any, with the permission of President.

All the comrades are requested to participate and the only requirement is a smart phone or laptop with internet. Please download Zoom in advance and you can join the meeting by clicking the link CHQ will send you on or before 22nd January, 2021. You may please start joining by 1.45 PM so that we can start the proceedings in time. Please take care to put off the mike of your device when others are speaking to ensure smooth conduct of the meeting.

Fraternally yours,

K G Jayaraj
General Secretary.



Denial of pension and pensionary benefits for the last one year- case of Shri Sukhdas Sahu, Regular Mazdoor (Retd.), Durg SSA, Chhattisgarh Circle- urgent intervention sought.

[AIBDPA/ BSNL-DOT/PEN-CG/ 2020 dated 13th October, 2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

We wish to bring to your kind notice a very genuine case reported from Chhattisgarh Circle for urgent intervention and early settlement.

Shri Sukhdas Sahu, Regular Mazdoor, Durg SSA, Chhattisgarh Circle was retired on superannuation on 30-09-2019. But, even after one year of his retirement, he has not been paid pension and other retirement benefits, including leave encashment. The reason attributed is that the CCA has returned his pension papers for want of Presidential Order for his absorption in BSNL. Whatever may be the reason, the question is how can a poor Group D retiree can pull on his family with no income for more than one year for no fault of his. Worse, he was not granted Provisional Pension as stipulated in Rule 64 & 66 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 for reasons best known to the Circle authorities. As a result, the family of the retired employee is in utter distress and poverty and at the verge of mass suicide.

It is pertinent to point out that DPP&W, DoT and BSNL are issuing circulars regularly highlighting the necessity and importance of ensuring timely pension and retirement benefits to the retirees. Unfortunately, these are not being complied by certain inferior offices and the above mentioned case is a glaring example of how carelessly are pension cases dealt with.

The Chhattisgarh Circle office has referred the case to Corporate Office for issuing the Presidential Order. The Corporate Office in turn first asked for the appointment order of Regular Mazdoor of the retired employee. When this was forwarded by the Circle Office, the Corporate Office again asked for order of Temporary Status Mazdoor. (This is a regular practice of some of the offices/officers not to ask the required documents at a stretch but indulge in piece meal to delay the issue the maximum and they seldom cares the importance of the issue involving the very lives of the hapless family of the concerned). It is reliably learnt that the Circle Office has also sent the order of Temporary

Status Mazdoor to the Corporate Office. So, we naturally feel that your kind intervention is very much required for further early necessary action in the matter to ensure;

1. Early issuance of Presidential Order.
2. Grant of Provisional Pension immediately to save the family of the poor retired employee.

A line in reply on the status of issue and the action taken shall be much obliged.

Request for Setting up of a Contributory Welfare Fund to extend Funeral Grant to the family during the death of the pensioner.

[AIBDPA/ MIN/WF- PEN/2020 dated 10-10-2020 to Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.]

We wish to bring to your kind notice, a very genuine issue of the pensioners community, for sympathetic consideration and appropriate action.

We have experienced several instances in which the families of the deceased pensioner struggling to meet the expenditure for the last rites and cremation of the pensioner. In certain cases, it is heartbreaking to witness the agony and mental stress of the family. Though we had preferred a demand of Funeral Grant of Rs. 10,000 to the family, unfortunately it has not been conceded so far.

Now, we approach your good self for the creation of a Contributory Welfare Fund by the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare to extend Funeral Grant to the family during the death of the pensioner. An amount may be recovered monthly from the pension as contribution of the pensioner to the Welfare Fund and an equal amount also contributed by the Government.

In this connection, it is worth mentioning that, Tamil Nadu State Government is having a Family Security Fund since 1997. Initially, the monthly contribution of the pensioner was Rs.20 till his death and in return the government paid Rs.25,000 to the family. The monthly contribution was increased to Rs.80 from 2014 and financial assistance payable to the family also enhanced to Rs.50,000. The excerpts of this scheme is enclosed herewith for ready reference please.



We sincerely hope that your good self will initiate necessary action in this regard which would benefit the families of the pensioners in distress to a great extent.

Denial of pension and pensionary benefits to VRS-2019 retirees belonging to ST category of Maharashtra- settlement requested in accordance with the directive issued by Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance based on the report of Parliamentary Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe

[AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020 dated 9th November, 2020, to Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT and Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

Ref: - (1) This Association letter No. AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020 dated 03-08-2020

(2) This Association letter No. AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020 dated 21-08-2020

(3) This Association letter No. AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020 dated 05-10-2020

(4) Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance F No.30013/27/2020-Ad IV A dated 16-10-2020.

We take this opportunity to request your good self to kindly consider the above referred to issue based on the following submission.

As you are aware, the pension and pensionary benefits of VRS-2019 retirees belonging to ST category of Maharashtra are withheld for non-confirmation of caste certificates. We have already pointed out vide our letters referred (1), (2) and (3) that the caste certificates were to be verified/confirmed by the appointing authority at the time of entry in the department as per clear instructions issued from time to time by DoPT. Unfortunately, the VRS retirees belonging to the ST category of Maharashtra continue to be harassed and intimidated by withholding their pension and pensionary benefits without any valid reason. Even the provisional pension is not being paid regularly and in time, putting these retired officials into untold miseries.

In this connection, we are enclosing herewith the copy of a letter issued by Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance referred (4) above. It is worth mentioning here that the contents of letter based on the report of Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled

Caste and Scheduled Tribe significantly vindicates the submission made by this Association in our letters referred above. The relevant portion of the letter issued by Special Secretary is reproduced hereunder for ready reference please;

“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 non-compliance of the directions, it would be constrained to take serious view in subsequent meeting.”

It is pertinent to point out that the above directive is very much applicable in the case of VRS retirees belonging to ST category of Maharashtra and request you to kindly settle the issue as a onetime measure at the earliest.

Lesser LPD than the juniors due to delayed order of promotion- case of 15 Account Officers of Kerala Circle- request for early settlement.

[AIBDPA/ BSNL- AO/KER/2020 dated 13th October, 2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

Ref: - **DGM (HR), O/O CGMT, Kerala Letter No. HR-II/6-1/KW/2020/9 dated 29-09-2020 addressed to DGM (SEA), BSNL CO.**

We are enclosing herewith a copy of the representation received from Ms. Radhika R, Accounts Officer (Retd), Office of GMT, Kollam, Kerala dated 26-12-2019 addressed to the Director (Finance), BSNL which is self-explanatory. There are 15 Accounts Officers similarly affected in Kerala and the issue has already been referred to Corporate Office by CGMT, Kerala vide letter referred to above.

The representation, though submitted earlier to her retirement under VRS-2019 on 31-01-2020, the Circle



Office has forwarded it to the Corporate Office only on 29-09-2020, i.e., after 10 months.

The issue in a nutshell is as follows: -

The promotion of AAO (Regular) to the applicants of Kerala was given as per orders issued in April, 2001 whereas their Juniors in Karnataka got the promotion from December, 2000. The same has been repeated in further Executive Promotions and the applicants did not get their promotion from E5 to E6 as they have retired on 31-01-2020 while their juniors got the promotion in December, 2019. Thus, an anomaly has occurred in their pay which has resulted in lesser last pay than their juniors in Karnataka. Naturally this has affected in drawing lesser pension and other retirement benefits and Ex-gratia. This is a great injustice meted out to these AOs and needs to be settled by granting their pay at par with their juniors. All the relevant documents are enclosed herewith for ready reference please.

So, we request your kind intervention and appropriate action for an early settlement of the issue.

Indefinite delay and breach of assurance in payment of balance 8% Ex-Gratia to the VRS -2019 retirees- intervention sought.

[AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/EX-GR/2020 dated 31st October, 2020, to Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT and Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL] We are constrained to bring to your kind notice an issue of utmost importance which warrants your intervention for early settlement. As you are well aware that the Ex-Gratia payment to the BSNL VRS-2019 retirees were to be paid in two equal installments, first in March, 2020 and second in June, 2020 as per the assurance given during the implementation of VRS. This was rightly pointed out in our earlier letter dated 27-06-2020.

But instead of two installments, it was later made four and the fourth installment of 8% is being delayed indefinitely. The delay is attributed to the failure of BSNL in settling hundreds of cases with disputed LPD and caste certificate. We are quite aware of the efforts being taken by Director(HR), BSNL who is issuing letters at regular intervals to the Circles for early settlement of pending cases. However, it is noticed that no positive result is seen for obvious reasons; mainly due to no clear directive and lack of accountability. And as such, nobody can predict as to when it could be settled by BSNL.

In these circumstances, we naturally feel that further delay in the payment of 8% ex-gratia will put the VRS retirees into unnecessary mental agony and distress. Therefore, we request DoT to kindly allot necessary fund for the balance of 8% Ex-gratia covering all the cases, including the disputed cases, to BSNL so that BSNL could make payment in undisputed cases immediately and in the case of disputed cases, BSNL may make payment as and when cleared. The balance, if any, could be returned to DoT.

Payment of 5.5% IDA due from 01-10-2020 to IDA Pensioners- request for issuing orders.

[AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2020 dated 21st November, 2020, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises]
Ref: - **DPE No.W-02/0039/2017-DPE (WC) GL XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020.**

All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association is the major pensioners organization having a membership of 1,20,000. We are approaching you through this email to draw your kind attention to one of the most genuine issues for favour of consideration and early settlement.

There has been a 5.5% hike in the IDA from 01-10-2020 according to the Consumer Price Index released by the Labour Bureau. Usually, the orders are issued by the DPE within one week of release of the quantum of IDA by Labour Bureau. However, for the last two occasions, there have been unwarranted delay in issuing the orders.

As you are aware, IDA is being paid to compensate the erosion in the wages/pension due to increase in the cost of essential commodities. This time Diwali, the biggest festival of the country was on 13-11-2020 and the pensioners were eagerly waiting to get the hike in IDA before Diwali. Almost all sections of workers are paid bonus or festival allowance to celebrate Diwali. But the pensioners have no other source of income other than pension. BSNL pensioners have not been granted pension revision due from 01-01-2017 and most of the pensioners are compelled to incur their medical expenditure from their pension as BSNL management is not paying their medical claims for the last two and half years.

Now, your esteemed department has issued an order referred to above, freezing three installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020, 01-01-2021 and 01-04-2021 to



the executives and employees of CPSEs. However, this has not been made applicable to the pensioners in this order, may be considering the plight of the pensioners during this Covid-19 pandemic period. Moreover, the number of eligible pensioners for IDA pension among the CPSE pensioners is less and the expenditure meager.

Therefore, we fervently request your good self, to kindly cause necessary action to issue the orders for payment of 5.5% hike in IDA from 01-10-2020 to the pensioners drawing IDA pension from the civil estimates.

Freezing of IDA to CPSE employees drawing IDA pay scales by DPE vide OM No.W-02/0039/2017=DPE(WC)-GL-XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020- misinterpretation by BSNL- intervention sought for corrective steps.

[AIBDPA/BSNL-DPE/ IDA/2020 dated 28th November, 2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

Ref: -BSNL CO Circular No. BSNL CO- A/11(18)/1/2020-ESTAB dated 26-11-2020.

We wish to bring to your kind attention of the serious issue under reference for early corrective action please.

The Department of Public Enterprises has issued an order under reference to freeze the Dearness Allowance of employees of CPSEs drawing IDA pay scales due from 01-10-2020, 01-01-2021 and 01-04-2021. In para 3, the OM states that “The above guidelines shall be applicable in case of Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs drawing 2017,2007,1997,1992 &1987 IDA pay scales.”

Therefore, it is very clear that pensioners drawing pension on IDA pay scales are exempted from the applicability in the OM under reference. Accordingly, we have already taken up the case with Hon’ble Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for issuing the order for the 5.5% hike in the IDA from 01-10-2020 for the IDA pensioners. (copy enclosed)

But we are rather surprised to note that the Circular issued by the Corporate Office under reference has cleverly avoided the applicability portion of the DPE OM and stated merely in the text “freezing of rate of IDA at current rate...”. It amounts to mis-interpretation of the DPE OM to the effect that the freezing of Dearness Allowance is applicable to the pensioners

and further substantiates it by marking the Circular to all Controller of Communication Accounts with directive to intimate all pension disbursing banks and Post Offices. This was quite unwarranted on the part of BSNL CO and needs corrective steps.

We feel that you will appreciate the fact that when the Finance Ministry issued orders on 23-04-2020 for freezing the Dearness Allowance of the Central Government Employees, there was a specific mention about the Dearness Relief to the Central Government Pensioners. Yes, it is mandatory that when an existing benefit is curtailed/ frozen, there should be a specific mention about the applicability to that particular section. As there is no mention about the applicability of pensioners in the DPE OM under reference, why should we hurry to reach to a presumption.?

In view of the forgoing, we request your kind intervention to avoid unnecessary confusion in the issue and correction of the BSNL CO Circular under reference.

Non-maintenance of faulty landlines connections of Retired BSNL officials for months together despite repeated complaints lodged.

[AIBDPA/ BSNL- MTCE/ GNL/2020 dated 1st December, 2020, Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

We are constrained to bring to your kind notice one of the important issues agitating in the minds of Retired BSNL officials for early intervention and redressal.

We are receiving numerous complaints of landline faults, particularly those with broadband connections are not being attended by the BSNL local authorities for months together. It is in the increase after the VRS was implemented in January, 2020 and most of the circles resorted to outsourcing some of the services including maintenance of faulty connections. No doubt, the number of surrendering of landlines has increased manifold after the outsourcing as the franchisees are least interested in the reputation of BSNL. ‘It is also an open secret that some of the franchisees are collaborating with private telecom companies to tarnish the image of BSNL to ensure the switch over of BSNL subscribers to other private operators. Some of our Circle Secretaries like Gujarat and Kerala have already written to the respective CGMTs regarding non-rectification of landline faults of BSNL retirees. While the Kerala CGMT has responded positively, CGMT Gujarat has not



responded. The situation in other Circles is also not different.

Now, we have a specific case of harassment of a Retired official, reported from UP (West) Circle. A brief history of the case is as follows;

Shri O.P. Sharma, Retired Sr TOA, Aligarh lodged a complaint of fault of his telephone with broadband, No.0572-2231200 on 24th January, 2020. He has been an internet user from the very beginning and despite repeated pursuance with the local BSNL authorities nothing positive emerged. Then he was compelled to complain to the higher authorities, including CGMT and CMD but of no avail. You may just imagine the difficulties and disappointment one has to suffer due to the denial of internet and basic telephone for months together. Shri O.P. Sharma also lodged a complaint with National Portal of Government of India on June 11, 2020. But till now his connection continues to be faulty.

Sir, you may appreciate the fact of long and dedicated services rendered by most of the Retired officials while in service and it will be much painful and disappointing for them when met with such harsh and merciless treatment from BSNL. Of course, we know that it is due the callousness and arrogance of certain BSNL officers and they deserve to be identified and punished. A review is very much warranted about the outsourcing of BSNL services, so that the erred franchisees are fired.

We sincerely hope that you will initiate suitable action on these issues mentioned above.

Reduction in Last Pay Drawn of retirees/retiring BSNL employees by CCAs in violation of statutory rules- intervention sought- reminder thereof.

[AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/LPD/2020 dated 4thDecember, 2020 to Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT and Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]
Ref :(1) Department of Posts letter No.100-1/2020-Pension dated 27th July, 2020

(2) This Association Letter No. AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/LPD/2020 dated 24th August, 2020.

A kind attention is drawn on the subject under reference and our detailed letter referred to above in this regard. (copy enclosed for ready reference) However, nothing positive has emerged either from DoT or BSNL on this important issue so far. Hence, we are constrained to write this reminder please.

We had pointed out some of the cases in our letter under reference. Further, many cases of VRS retirees are also pending unresolved due to the arbitrary reduction in the Last Pay Drawn by the respective CCAs.

It was also brought to your notice of the order issued by the Department of Posts cited above which was issued based on the clarification given by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare. It is specifically mentioned in this letter that “However for such check of the correctness of past emoluments, the check should be the minimum that is absolutely necessary, and it should in any case not go back to a period earlier than a maximum of 24 months preceding the date of retirement”. In our cases, the CCAs dig out pay fixation given even 25-30 years ago. We are at a loss to understand why such a double standard is being followed by Department of Telecommunications, under the same Ministry of Communications.

So, it is once again requested that necessary action may please be caused to issue the orders in this regard by DoT as has been already done by Department of Posts so that BSNL retirees are not discriminated.

Allotment of fund to clear the pending medical claims of BSNL retirees- discrimination against those opted without voucher, medical allowance- protest thereof.

[AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS/CMD/2020 dated 7th December, 2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

We are thankful to the BSNL management for releasing fund for clearing the with voucher medical bills of BSNL retirees up to 31-03-2019. But at the same time, it is a matter of heart burning that the retirees who have opted for without voucher medical allowance have been excluded, rather discriminated in the payment.

In this connection we wish to bring to your notice that there are BSNL pensioners who have not even paid a single installment of medical allowance after its restoration in certain SSAs of Maharashtra.

As you may be aware, the BSNL retirees who have opted for without voucher are also incurring expenditure for their ailments regularly. They have opted for without voucher because of the difficulties in preparing bills, submitting it to the concerned SSAs and wait for long time for the payment.

Further, BSNL employees have been paid their medical claims up to 31-03-2020. But in the past, both the



employees and retirees were treated uniformly in the payment of medical claims. Therefore, when the management paid medical claims twice to the employees, first up to 30-09-2019 and second up to 31-03-2020, the retirees were badly hurt on such discrimination.

Therefore, we fervently request you, to kindly cause necessary action for allotment of necessary fund for clearing the medical claims of the retirees, both with voucher and without voucher up to 31-03-2020 without further delay

Mentioning of “BSNL VRS 2019” instead of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 in the PPOs of VRS retirees- correction sought to allay the apprehensions of VRS retirees.

[AIBDPA/ DOT-VRS/2020 dated 10th December, 2020 to Shri Anshu Prakash Secretary, DoT]

Ref : - **This Association letter AIBDPA/ DOT-VRS/2020 dated 20-06-2020.**

We are constrained to bring to your kind notice the issue under reference for early remedial action as nothing has happened even after about six months of our letter referred to above.

It has been mentioned in the particular column, Rules under which Sanctioned- BSNL VRS-2019 instead of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, of PPOs issued to the BSNL VRS retirees, retired on 31-01-2020. This has naturally created lot of confusion and apprehensions in the minds of the BSNL VRS retirees. Therefore, it was rightly brought to the notice of Member (Finance) by the undersigned then and there in the discussion held in person. However, the Member (Finance) just pacified that there is nothing wrong in mentioning BSNL VRS-2019 in the PPOs and VRS retirees are eligible to the benefits similar to the superannuation pensioners. But it is not sufficient to allay the concerns of the VRS retirees, as there is no such rules in the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 and they naturally apprehend that it may affect them in future. So, we wrote the letter under reference.

Hence it is once again requested that necessary action may please be caused either to make suitable amendments in the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 or to replace the entry, BSNL VRS-2019 with CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 in the PPOs of VRS retirees.

Proposal for Wellness Centre at Mysore, Karnataka- request for early sanction.

[AIBDPA/ CGHS-KAR/ 2020 dated 14th December, 2020 to Smt. Arti Ahuja, I A S, Add. Secretary (Health) and Director General, CGHS]

We wish to bring to your kind notice a genuine issue of central Government pensioners and BSNL pensioners for favourable consideration.

It has been the demand of the central Government employees and pensioners belonging to government and BSNL as well, to open a new Wellness Centre at Mysuru, for a long time. Finally, Additional Director, CGHS, Bengaluru, having been convinced of the justification of a Wellness Center at Mysuru, has sent the proposal for the same to the Directorate, some eight months ago.

Madam, Mysuru is a central district in Karnataka with four neighbouring districts of Chamarajnagar, Mandya, Hassan and Kodagu and many central government employees and pensioners of both central government and BSNL belonging to these five districts will be benefited if a Wellness Centre is started at Mysuru.

Nowadays, due to non-payment of medical bills and medical allowance to BSNL pensioners by the BSNL management, many of the BSNL pensioners are switching over to CGHS wherever CGHS facilities are available near to their home place. So, BSNL pensioners of these five districts are eagerly waiting for the opening of a Wellness Centre at Mysuru.

In view of the forgoing, we request your kind self to cause necessary action for sanction of a new Wellness Centre at Mysuru and early functioning of the same.

Denial of pension and pensionary benefits to BSNL VRS retirees belonging to ST category in Maharashtra for alleged non-confirmation of caste certificate.

[AIBDPA/ PSC -SCST/VRS-MH/2020 dated 19th December, 2020 to Dr. (Prof) Kirti Premjibhai Solanki, Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Welfare of SC and ST]

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.

Non-inclusion of issues contained in AIBDPA letters in the PG cases relating to retirees grievances-discrimination noticed.

[AIBDPA/ BSNL/ CORRES/2020 dated 26.12.2020 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

- Ref: (1) Letter No.1-6/2019-PG dated 07-12-2020 of Shri. Sudhir Gupta, PGM(CDN&SCD), BSNL CO
(2) DoT Letter No.DoT/MoC-PG/2020/MS dated 09-12-2020 of Shri. Munish Kapoor, ADG(MoC-PG)

We wish to bring to your notice the following issue for kind consideration and early corrective action.

As you may be well aware of the fact that this Association, AIBDPA has been writing letters to you on important issues of the pensioners with the hope that these are being looked into and necessary action taken. Unfortunately, we are not getting any reply from BSNL barring a few in the initial period of formation of our Association, AIBDPA.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are unable to visit the Corporate Office and give the letters in person since March, 2020. So, the letters are being sent through email and sometimes we are being informed by the BSNL PG Cell to the effect that the grievance registered with Docket Number and Service Representative will address the issue very soon. This is actually an auto-generated text meant for the complaints received from the subscribers of BSNL services. You may please just imagine the futility of such a reply.

Now, the letters under reference have come to our notice and in the Annexure 1 the list of cases pending unresolved up to 31-10-2020 are also appended. (copy enclosed for ready reference) In several cases of retirees the name of one of the BSNL Executive Pensioners' organizations is mentioned. It is also noticed that BSNL is replying to the letters of this particular pensioners' organization. Our organization, AIBDPA represents 1,20,000 pensioners both Executives and Non-Executives of not only BSNL, but also DoT.

We do not know the criteria being adopted by BSNL in dealing with the pensioners' organizations as none is officially recognized. So, we naturally feel that we, even being the biggest pensioners' organization of BSNL and DoT retirees, are being discriminated and some kind of partisan stand is visible which is not desirable on the part of BSNL management.

It also reveals that the figures given in the annexure-1 do not reflect the actual number of grievances as the issues raised by other organizations are not included in the list. It is the usual practice and minimum courtesy by a reputed and esteemed department/firm to reply to the letters of any organization raising serious and important issues of the pensioners.

We, therefore, sincerely hope that you will look in to the issue judiciously and cause appropriate action so that fair and equal treatment is extended to all the pensioners' organizations keeping up the great tradition of BSNL

Payment of 5.5% IDA due from 01-10-2020 to IDA Pensioners- request for issuing orders.

[AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2020 dated 29th December, 2020 to Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises]

Ref: **-(1) DPE No.W-02/0039/2017-DPE (WC) GL XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020.**

(2) This Association letter No. AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2020 dated 21-11-2020

We are compelled to approach your good self once again as there has been no positive development on the issue brought to your notice vide our letter referred (2) above. (copy enclosed for ready reference).

Now, we have the privilege to enclose herewith a copy of the judgment by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala for your kind perusal and early necessary action.

Two writ petitions were filed in the High Court of Kerala, the first one by FACT Employees Association along with one employee of FACT and one retiree of FACT and the second one by FACT Workers Organisation. Both the writ petitions challenged the Circular issued by the FACT management in pursuance of the DPE order cited (1) above. The petitioners prayer was to quash the circular issued by the FACT management freezing the IDA due from 01-10-2020, 01-01-2021 and 01-04-2021 to the workers also, whereas in the DPE order para 3 clearly states that the applicability is only for the Executives and Non- Unionised Supervisors of the CPSEs.

When the case was taken up, Assistant Solicitor General appearing for the government sought time to get instructions from the government and the case was adjourned. Subsequently, on 11-12-2020 the Assistant Solicitor General, under instructions, submitted that the guidelines in the DPE order dated 19-11-2020 has application only in the case of Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of Central Public Sector Enterprises and it has no application insofar as workmen in those enterprises are concerned. Accordingly, the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala pronounced the judgment on 17-12-2020 setting aside the relevant portion of the circular of FACT management making applicable to persons other than Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors, resulting in consequential monetary benefits to other category of employees including workers.

Sir, the above judgment fully vindicates our submission that the BSNL pensioners are not covered in the DPE order under reference and the government cannot withhold the IDA due from 01-10-2020.

Hence it is requested that necessary action may please be caused to issue the orders by DPE for payment of IDA due from 01-10-2020 to BSNL pensioners without further delay.

A line in reply shall be much obliged.



DOT / Govt. Orders

No. W-02/0039/2017-DPE(WC)-GL-XVI/20
Government of India
Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
Department of Public Enterprises

Public Enterprise Bhawan
Block No. 14, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated, the 19th November, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Freezing of Dearness Allowance to Employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) drawing pay as per 2017, 2007, 1997, 1992 & 1987 IDA pay revision guidelines at current rates till 30th June, 2021-reg

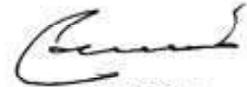
The undersigned is directed to say that in view of the crisis arising out of COVID-19, it has been decided that additional installments of Dearness Allowance payable to Employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) drawing pay as per 2017, 2007, 1997, 1992 & 1987 IDA pay revision guidelines, due from 01.10.2020 shall not be paid. The additional installments of Dearness Allowances due from 01.01.2021 & 01.04.2021, shall also not be paid. However, Dearness Allowance at current rates (w.e.f. 01.07.2020) will continue to be paid.

2. As and when the decision to release the future installment of Dearness Allowance due from 01.07.2021 is taken by the Government, the rates of Dearness Allowance as effective from 01.10.2020, 01.01.2021 & 01.04.2021 will be restored prospectively and will be subsumed in the cumulative revised rate effective from 01.07.2021. No arrears for the period from 01.10.2020 till 30.06.2021 shall be paid

3. The above guidelines shall be applicable in case of Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs drawing 2017, 2007, 1997, 1992 & 1987 IDA pay scales. The DA rates in case of CPSE employees drawing CDA pay scales has already been frozen vide DPE's OM No. W-02/0038/2017-DPE(WC)-GL-IX/20 dated 28.04.2020 in line with the Department of Expenditure's OM No. 1/1/2020- E.II(B) dated 23.04.2020 in this regard.

4. All administrative Ministries/Departments of Government of India are requested to bring the foregoing to the notice of the CPSEs under their administrative control for necessary action at their end.

5. This issues with the approval of the Minister (HI&PE).

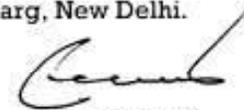

(P K Saha)
Director

To

The Secretaries of all administrative Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Department of Expenditure, North Block, New Delhi
2. The Chief Executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises.
3. Financial Advisers in the Administrative Ministries/Departments.
4. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 9 Deen Dayal Upadhayay Marg, New Delhi.
5. NIC, DPE with the request to upload this OM on the DPE website.


(P K Saha)
Director

No.12/4/2020-P&PW(C)-6300
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension
Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare

8th Floor, Janpath Bhavan,
Janpath, New Delhi,
Dated: 15th May, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Consolidated instructions for Pension Disbursing Authorities to ensure smooth payment of pension/family pension to pensioners /family pensioners.

On an analysis of the grievances received in this Department, it has been observed that updated and consolidated instructions will help improve the processing of Pensioner's requests by banks and others. Hence, an attempt has been made herein, to consolidate relevant instructions issued by Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare from time to time with regard to disbursement of pension and family pension. These Banks are adopting different procedures, while releasing pension/ family pension or seeking declarations/certificates from pensioners / family pensioners at different periodicity. Therefore, the following consolidated guidelines are being issued with an objective to create awareness among CPPCs/ bank branches on updated rules and instructions in this regard:-

(i) Requirement of pensioners to be present in person before paying bank branch for credit of first pension : The pensioner is no longer required to visit bank in person for credit of his first pension. The undertaking with regard to recovery of overpayment from pensioner is forwarded to concerned bank CPPC through CPAO along with the PPO. Bank will not insist for the presence of pensioner in order to activate their pension account. (DoPPW's OM No. 1/27/2011-P&PW dated 7th may 2014)

(ii) Requirement of family pensioner to submit form 14 : On death of a pensioner, the spouse is not required to submit form 14, if he/she was having a joint account with the pensioner and authorisation for payment of family pension exists in the Pension Payment Order (PPO) in his/her favour. In such cases, spouse will be required to provide only a copy of the death certificate to the pension paying branch in order to commence his/her family pension. Pension disbursing bank will identify the family pensioners based on the information furnished in PPO and its own Know Your Customer procedure without insisting him/her to physically present himself/herself in the paying bank.(DoPPW's OM No. 1/27/2011-P&PW dated 20th September 2013)

(iii) Insisting spouse to open separate bank account for getting family pension :-Banks will not insist for opening a new account when the spouse was having a joint account with the pensioner and authorisation for payment of family pension exists

in the Pension Payment Order (PPO) in his/her favour. (RBI Circular- Disbursement of Government Pension by Agency Banks dated September 9, 2019)

(iv) **Submission of declaration for taking up commercial employment after retirement:** This declaration is required from pensioners who have retired from Group 'A' services/posts. This declaration is required only in the first year after retirement of a Group A officer. Therefore, this declaration may not be sought from the pensioner after expiry of one year from the date of retirement. If a pensioner declares that he has taken up commercial employment within one year from the date of retirement without obtaining permission of Government, Pension disbursing bank will seek the orders of the Government through the CPAO before making further pension payments. However, if a pensioner declares that he has taken up commercial employment within one year after retirement with the permission of the Government, Pension disbursing bank will continue to pay his /her pension. (Rule 10 of CCS Pension Rule).

(v) **Submission of re-employment certificate:** A pensioner is required to furnish a re-employment declaration once in a year i.e. in the month of November every year. If a pensioner declares that he is re-employed under the Central or State Government, or a Corporation/ Company/ Body/ Bank under them, the element of dearness relief during the period of re-employment may not be credited by the bank during the period of such re-employment. However, if a pensioner declares about his re-employment and also states that in accordance with the relevant rules/instructions, entire amount of his/her pension has been ignored while fixing his/her pay in the re-employment post, he will continue to be eligible to draw dearness relief along with pension. If a pensioner fails to submit requisite declaration in the month of November, the element of dearness relief on his monthly pension may not be credited by the bank and he may be paid pension excluding the dearness relief. Employment/re-employment of spouse does not affect his/her family pension. Therefore, Dearness Relief will continue to be paid with family pension to the spouse who is employed/re-employed in the aforesaid organizations. (Rule 55 of CCS Pension Rules, 1972).

(vi) **Submission of non-earning certificate :** A family pensioner, other than spouse, has to submit a declaration of non-earning his/her livelihood every year in the month of November. As per rule 54(6) of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, family pension is allowed to a son, daughter, disabled sibling or parents of a deceased pensioner or a deceased Government servant until he/she starts earning his/her livelihood. This declaration is, however, not required from the spouse for continuing his/her family pension. (Rule 54(6) of CCS Pension Rules).

(vii) **Submission of declaration of marriage:** A family pensioner, other than spouse, has to submit a declaration of non-marriage/non re-marriage every six months. The family pension is discontinued if she/he gets married/re-married. If the spouse is a recipient of family pension, no certificate of remarriage is required to be furnished by him/her. At the time of commencement of family pension, an undertaking will be obtained from him/her to the effect that in the event of his/her re-marriage, he/she will report the fact to the pension disbursing bank promptly. However childless widow of deceased Government servant and disabled child of a

pensioner/Government servant will continue to get family pension even if they get married/re-married. (Rule 54(6) of CCS (PENSION) RULES, 1972)

(viii) **Submission of life certificate:** Life certificate has to be submitted by every pensioner/family pensioners in the month of November every year. Pension Disbursing bank will also accept Aadhar enabled Digital Life Certificate "Jeevan Pramaan". Old aged pensioners who are 80 years and above can submit life certificate in the month of October also.(D/o Pension & Pensioners Welfare's OM No. 1/20/2018 P&PW (E) Dated 18.07.2019)

(ix) **Submission of disability certificate :** If family pension has been sanctioned to a disabled child and the disability is temporary, the guardian of such disabled child shall produce disability certificate once in every 5 years to the effect that he/she continues to suffer from such disorder /disability in order to continue family pension. No fresh certificate of disability would be required in the case of a child with permanent disability. A disabled child will also be required to self-certify every year that he/she has not started earning his/her livelihood (Rule 54(6) of CCS Pension Rule,1972)

(x) **Restoration of commuted portion of pension:** Restoration of commuted portion of pension after 15 years is to be made automatically by bank. Pensioner will not be asked to make application for restoration of commuted portion of pension. In cases where the date of commutation is not readily available in the PPO, the bank will obtain the information from the Accounts Officer who issued the PPO through Central Pension Accounting Office before restoring the commuted portion of pension. The amount of commuted pension will not be deducted from family pension. { Rule 10 of CCS (Commutation of Pension) Rules,1981 }

(xi) **Paying additional amount of pension on attaining the age of 80 years and above:** The additional quantum of pension/family pension will be paid on attaining the age 80 years and above. Additional pension is paid from the first day of the month in which a pensioner/family pensioner completes the age of 80 years and above. For example, if a pensioner /family pensioner completes the age of 80 years in the month of August, 2020, he will be paid additional pension/family pension from 1st day of the month of August, 2020. Bank will not insist for any request /application from pensioners /family pensioners in order to pay additional pension to them. The quantum of additional pension/family pension to the pensioners/family pensioners is as follows:-

Age of Pensioner	Additional quantum of pension
From 80 years to less than 85 years	20% of basic pension
From 85 years to less than 90 years	30% of basic pension
From 90 years to less than 95 years	40% of basic pension
From 95 years to less than 100 years	50% of basic pension
100 years or more	100% of basic pension

(D/o Pension & Pensioners Welfare's OM No. dated 38/37/08 P&PW(A) dated 2ndSeptember & 3rdOctober 2008)



(xii) Obtaining of Life Certificate from the doorstep of the pensioners:- The Department has issued directions to all the Pension Disbursing Banks to send SMSs/Emails to all their pensioners on 24th October, 1st November, 15th November and 25th November every year reminding them to submit their Annual Life Certificates by 30th November. The Department directed all Pension Disbursing Banks to make an exception list as on 1st December every year of those pensioners who fail to submit their Life Certificate and issue another SMS/Email to them for submitting the Life Certificate. The bank in addition will also ask such pensioners through SMS/Email as to whether they are interested in submission of Life Certificate through a chargeable door-step service, on a nominal charge not exceeding Rs. 60/-. (D/o Pension & Pensioners Welfare's Circular No. 12/4/2020-P&PW(C)-6300, dated 17.01.2020).

2. All banks are advised to comply with the above instructions and to give wide publicity by putting up these instructions on their websites and also on the notice boards of the branches of the bank etc.

3. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Rajesh Kumar
(Rajesh Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel No. 23310108

To
CMDs of all Pension Disbursing Banks

Copy to:

1. Central Pension Accounts Officer, Chief Controller of Pension, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Trikot-II, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi
2. Secretary, Department of Financial Services. Jeevan Deep Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi
3. Secretary, Ministry of Defence, South Block, New Delhi
4. Chairman, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Secretary, Department of Posts, Dak Bhawan, Patel Chowk, New Delhi
6. NIC: for posting on website of this Department.



CURRENT AFFAIRS

Non-payment of IDA due from 01-10-2020-CHQ taken up with Minister for Heavy Industries & CPSEs.

DPE issued an order dated 19-11-2020 freezing the IDA due from 01-10-2020, 01-01-2021 and 01-04-2021 under the cover of Covid-19 pandemic. But in the same order it has been stated that it is applicable to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs. So, retirees are not covered in the order and CHQ wrote to Hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries and CPSEs to cause necessary action for payment of IDA to the BSNL retirees. Subsequently, on 17-12-2020, on a petition filed by FACT Employees Association & Others, hon'ble Kerala High Court has ordered that the order of DPE is not applicable to the workers based on the submission of Assistant Solicitor General, appeared for the government. CHQ has again written to the Minister quoting judgment, which fully vindicates our submission, for early action for payment IDA due from 01-10-2020.

Mean while another installment of IDA @6.1% has become due from 01-01-2021. Now, total IDA admissible on 2007- pay scale as on 1st January 2021 becomes 171.5%. (159.9%+ 5.5% +6.1%).

Corporate Office releases fund to clear medical claims of retirees with voucher up to 31-03-2019.

BSNL corporate Office has released fund to clear the medical claims of retirees both indoor and outdoor upto 31-03-2019. However, no fund is allotted for payment of medical allowance (without voucher) which amounts to discrimination. There are certain SSAs in circles like Maharashtra where not a single installment of medical allowance is paid after medical allowance was restored. CHQ has again taken up the issue with BSNL Corporate Office to allot necessary fund to clear the pending claims of retirees both without voucher and with voucher up to 31-03-2020.

Support the agitating Farmers.

The glorios struggle of the farmers is continuing due to the adamant stand of Modi government. The seventh round discussion held on 04-01-2021 also failed as the government is still not prepared to repeal the three anti- farmer agrarian acts. As called by CHQ, AIBDPA units have conducted solidarity Dharna/Demonstration on 04-12-2020. We may have to organize further Solidarity action in support of the agitation and help them by all means. AIBDPA delegations from Punjab and Haryana have visited the struggling farmers at Singhu border, New Delhi.

Central Executive Committee Meeting on 23-01-2021.

It has been notified to hold the CEC Meeting virtually on 23-01-2021, as no physical meeting is possible in the near future due to the worsening Covid-19 pandemic situation. The CEC will discuss the issues of the pensioners seriously and take appropriate decisions.

NCCPA call for solidarity dharna on 25-11-2020 in support of the National Strike of 26-11-2020 evokes massive response.

CHQ heartily congratulates all the leaders in various circles for organising the Solidarity Dharna in a big way and thousands of comrades for their enthusiastic participation in large numbers. While supporting the National Strike which has been our tradition since formation of AIBDPA, inclusion of the important demands of pensioners for the Solidarity Dharna, particularly pension revision and medical claims of BSNL pensioners and the freezing of IDA, have instilled eagerness of our pensioners to show their anger and anguish against the injustice.

AIBDPA units also joined the Protest Demonstration of AUAB against freezing of IDA on 25-11-2020 and in certain places both were held combined.



Obituary

Com. Raghunath Singh.



Com. Raghunath Singh, National Vice President and Punjab State General Secretary of CITU has passed away on 20-12-2020 due to post COVID complications. He was a militant leader and has led many struggles of the workers. He was very close to BSNLEU and AIBDPA. He delivered the key note address in the last Circle Conference of AIBDPA, Punjab held at Ludhiana.

AIBDPA pay respectful homage to the departed leader and convey heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and comrades.

Com. D Gopalan.



It is with heavy heart, CHQ is reporting the unexpected sad demise of Com. D. Gopalan, District Secretary, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu on 17-10-2020. Com. D. Gopalan was a sincere and committed leader who worked energetically for the advancement of our AIBDPA. He was also associated actively with NCCPA, CITU, CPI (M) etc. Com. D Gopalan was admitted in the Government Hospital having been tested positive for Corona a few days ago. He was tested negative on 16-10-2020 and was expected to be discharged on 17-10-2020. But his condition suddenly deteriorated in the morning of 17-10-2020 and breathed his last. CHQ pays respectful homage to the departed leader and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, Comrades and friends.

Com. N.N. Das.



CHQ is saddened to report the untimely demise of Com. N.N. Das, District Secretary and Assistant Circle Secretary, Kolkata Telephones. He was admitted in the hospital for Corona Virus infection a few days ago. His condition became worse for the last two days and breathed his last on 27-11-2020. Com. N.N. Das was a sincere and dedicated Comrade who has played an important role in strengthening AIBDPA in Kolkata. AIBDPA pays rich tributes to Com. N.N. Das and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and comrades of Kolkata.

year ago. We have lost a sincere comrade. CHQ pays homage to the departed leader and conveys heartfelt condolences to the family and comrades.

Football legend Diego Maradona.



One of the greatest footballers in the world, Diego Armando Maradona has passed away on 25-11-2020 due to a massive heart attack. He had just celebrated his 60th birthday and the end came at his home at Buenos Aires.

Maradona came into World prominence after he won the World Cup Football as the Captain of his country, Argentina in 1986. He was simply magical with the ball and people worshiped him as a God. He has also played for the Italian Club, Napoli and helped the underdogs to victory in the Italian League twice. But he was not included in the 1994 World Cup team of Argentina due to doping. However, once again he led the country to victory in the 2008 World Cup, this time as a coach.

Maradona is known for his allegiance to Che Guevara, the great revolutionary and had good relationship with Fidel Castro of Cuba. He was definitely an anti-imperialist and supporter of socialist leaders in the world. AIBDPA also joins millions of people to mourn his untimely demise and pays respectful homage to the football genius.

Com. S A Tendulkar



CHQ is saddened to report that Com. S A Tendulkar, Circle Advisor, Mumbai Telecom Factory has passed away on 16-10-2020. He was only 66 and was admitted in the Sion Hospital, Mumbai for Corona Virus infection. Com. Tendulkar was a matured and committed leader who has served in various capacities in BSNLEU including Circle Secretary, TF, Mumbai and CHQ Office Bearer. After retirement he took the initiative along with Com. S D Choudhary to form AIBDPA in Telecom Factory, Mumbai. The passing away of Com. S A Tendulkar is a great loss. AIBDPA pays respectful homage to the departed leader and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends and comrades.

Com. Pradip Saha.



CHQ is saddened to report the unexpected demise of Com. Pradip Saha on 07-12-2020 due to cardiac arrest. Com. Saha was very active in the union activities from the very beginning of his service and held various positions. He retired as JTO officiating in 2016 and joined AIBDPA. He took up the responsibility of District Secretary, Krishnanagar just one



Solidarity Dharna held on 04-12-2020, in support of Farmers' agitation.



Ludhiana



Hathras (UP)



Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)



Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)



Vellore (Tamil Nadu)



Nepnach (Madhya Pradesh)



Kozhikode (Kerala)



Solidarity Dharna held on 25-11-2020, in support of General strike of 26th November, 2020.



Happy New Year 2021

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021.