



ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

[Registered No. S/68836/2010]

Central Head Quarters

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AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020

12th January, 2021

To,

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| <p>(1) Shri Anshu Prakash,
Secretary,
Department of Telecommunications,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Asoka Road,
New Delhi-110001</p> | <p>(2) Shri P.K. Purwar,
CMD, BSNL
Bharat Sanchar Bhawan,
Janpath,
New Delhi – 110 001</p> |
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Sir,

Sub :- **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 Parliamentary Committee on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes-reg**

- 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) This Association letter No.AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020 dated 09-11-2020
(5) Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance F No.30013/27/2020-Ad IV A dated 16-10-2020.
(6) Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Welfare of SC &ST OM No.57/1/1/SCTC/2019 dated 24-12-2020.

This is in continuation of our letters referred to above. Unfortunately, there has been no progress on the issue under reference. We had submitted that the basic reason for the issue is non-compliance of relevant rules and procedure laid down by DoP&T for verification of caste certificate. This process was to be completed by the appointing authorities during the initial period of the appointments of the employees. So, there is absolutely no rationale and justification in asking the poor employees belonging to the ST category to prove their caste, after their retirement. It is nothing but making these retirees the scapegoats for the lapse of the higher authorities.

In our last letter dated 09-11-2020, we had brought to your notice, the guidelines, rather instructions of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, communicated in the Letter of Special Secretary, Ministry of Finance dated 16-10-2020. The relevant portion was also quoted in our letter which is again reproduced hereunder for ready reference;

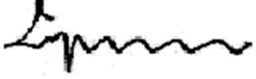
“ 2. The Committee during the deliberations took note of the fact that pensionary benefits are not being paid to ST Officers who have served the department for more than 30 years. The Committee took note of the fact that in spite of clear cut instructions issued by the DoPT verification of caste certificates 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. “

Now, we wish to bring to your notice another instruction of the Parliament Committee contained in the OM referred to (6) above for kind consideration (copy enclosed for ready reference). It has specifically issued instructions to the State Level Scrutiny Committees to verify the Caste Certificates of ONLY those appointed after the year 1995.

It is pertinent to point out that almost all the VRS retirees of Maharashtra are appointed prior to the year 1995 and deserve to be exempted from another verification as per the above directive. Therefore, considering the two directives of the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes mentioned above, we request you to kindly settle the issue as a onetime measure. We sincerely hope that justice will be extended to the hapless VRS retirees of Maharashtra by granting them regular pension, payment of retirement benefits and Ex-Gratia, as in the case of other VRS retirees without further delay.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



K G Jayaraj
General Secretary.

Encl: As above

CC: (1) Shri P.K. Sinha, Member (Finance), Department of Telecommunications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
(2) Shri Arvind Vadnerkar, Director (HR), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
(3) Shri A.M. Gupta, Sr GM(SR), BSNL CO, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath New Delhi-110001