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ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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Editor: K.G. Jayaraj

January - March 2021

*“My Life,Struggles”, autobiography of
Com.V.A.N.Namboodiri, released.*





District Conference of Khammam and 20th Anniversary of BSNLEU held jointly on 22.03.2021



Burdwan District Convention held on 14.03.2021.



Himatnagar District Branch formed on 07.02.2021



Godhra District Branch formed on 21.02.2021



Dharmapuri District Conference held on 17.02.2021



Palanpur District Conference held on 21.03.2021.



Pensioners' Guest House opened at Guwahati on 19.03.2021.



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Denial of IDA installments to BSNL Pensioners - Efforts are continuing for the payment.

The Covid-19 pandemic has its adverse impact on all spheres and the worst affected are the common people. 10 crore workers have lost their job in our country and were compelled to flee to their native places. There was no conveyance due to the sudden declaration of the lock down and many had to walk hundreds of kilometers. A good number of workers and family members have lost their lives during these journeys, most of them run over by goods trains while sleeping on the tracks.

It is the bounden duty of any democratic government to extend sufficient help to the needy at this crucial period of crisis. The government collected thousands of crores to the PM Cares Fund and major portion of such donations came from the premier public sector companies. Government employees and pensioners also contributed liberally. Still, Modi government, under the cover of Covid-19 pandemic, freezed not only the DA of the central government employees but also DR of the central government pensioners from 01-01-2020 to 30-06-2021. The government has thus snatched away Rs.37,530 cr from the poor employees and pensioners. But no monetary benefits were given to the common people and workers and was limited to 10kg grains through ration shops. At the same time, Modi government was lavish in granting concessions and reliefs to the corporate and the rich in the name of stimulus packages.

The government then targeted the employees of the CPSEs and the DPE issued an OM dated 19-11-2020 freezing three installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020, 01-01-2021 and 01-04-2021 to the employees of CPSEs. AIBDPA is the only organization intervened against this injustice. We took up the issue with the hon'ble Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, writing a detailed letter on 22-11-2020 stating that the DPE OM is not applicable to BSNL pensioners as it is specifically mentioned in the OM that the freezing is applicable to Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors. We again wrote to the Minister when the Assistant Solicitor General deposed before the High Court of Kerala in a case filed by FACT Employees Association, that the OM is applicable only to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors. DPE itself issued a clarificatory order dated 08-01-2021 based on the Kerala High Court order, stating that the freezing of IDA is applicable only to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of the CPSEs and it is not applicable to other employees including workmen.

AIBDPA wrote another letter on 09-01-2021 to the Minister quoting the DPE OM dated 08-01-2021 and demanding to cause necessary action for issuing formal orders for the payment of two installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020(5.5%) and 0-1-01-2021 (6.1%) to BSNL pensioners. DPE

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



responded to this letter and forwarded our letter to DoT, being the administrative Department, for necessary action on 04-02-2021 with copy to AIBDPA. CHQ, then wrote to Secretary, DoT attaching the letter of DPE and demanded early action to issue necessary directives to the banks and post offices for disbursement of the two IDA installments to BSNL pensioners.

But having no positive response or action either from DPE or DoT, CHQ filed a writ petition in the High Court of Kerala on 26-02-2021 through Advocate V V Suresh. The Hon'ble High Court accepted the case and issued an interim order directing the respondents not to deny the IDA installments to BSNL pensioners.

It is significant to get an interim Order on the same date of admission of the case. We wrote to both DPE and DOT on 01-03-2021 attaching the certified copy of the interim order of Kerala High Court on 01-03-2021 demanding implementation of the order by causing necessary action for payment of two installments of IDA to BSNL pensioners.

We had also taken up the issue through our Coimbatore MP, Shri. P R Natarajan also who wrote to the Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises on 26-01-2021 for early payment of IDA

installments to BSNL pensioners and employees. The Honourable Minister has replied on 03-03-2021 and stated that *“the OM dated 19-11-2020 regarding freezing of DA w e f 01-10-2020 to 30-06-2021 is applicable only to Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs and not to workmen or pensioners of CPSEs. Further DPE does not issue instructions regarding DA rates for pensioners of CPSEs.”*

So, AIBDPA has again written to the Secretary, DOT on 20-03-2021 based on the contention of the Minister and the interim order of the High Court of Kerala, reiterating that it is absolutely within its jurisdiction to settle the issue. It will be some solace to the BSNL pensioners to get their due IDA installments who are denied the pension revision due from 01-01-2017 and non-payments of medical benefits by BSNL for the last three years. Unfortunately, the Department of Telecommunications is adopting a negative stand and hence we are moving the Kerala High Court with an urgent petition for the final order with clear directives to the respective authorities for immediate payment of IDA installments to the BSNL pensioners. We will not rest until and unless the IDA installments are paid to the BSNL pensioners. ■

“My Life, Struggles”, autobiography of Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri, released.

Veteran Leader and founder General Secretary of BSNL Employees Union has penned his autobiography, My Life, Struggles. The book contains an interesting life story of Com. V A N Namboodiri filled with numerous struggles during a span of six decades and still continuing. Actually, it is the history of P&T Trade Union movement and Central Govt. Employees movement mixed with the glimpses of personal and family life of Com. V A N.

Karnataka Circle Branch headed by Coms. C K Gundanna (Circle President) and H V Sudharshan (Circle Secretary) has taken the initiative to publish the book and befittingly chose to release on 22-03-2021, the 20th Anniversary of BSNLEU at Bangalore, a fitting honour indeed.

Com Amanullah Khan, former President, AIIEA formally released the book in the jam-packed hall of PGMT Office, Bangalore in the presence of a galaxy of leaders, including Coms. C K Gundanna, H V Sudarshan, Geetha, Muddaiah (Circle Secretary, AIBDPA), H C Prakash (AGS, AIBDPA), G G Patil (Former AGS, AIBDPA) N.Kuppusamy (Circle Secretary, AIBDPA, Tamil Nadu) .

Reception Committee of 3rd AIC donated Rs.2 Lakh to CHQ.

West Bengal comrades, the Circle Branches of Kolkata Telephones, West Bengal, Telecom Factory & Stores, Kolkata and our strong affiliate, CORTO took up the responsibility of holding the 3rd triennial All India Conference at Kolkata braving the peculiar, rather adverse conditions prevailed in West Bengal. There were serious concerns about the successful conduct of the conference and the Reception Committee faced certain challenges in the form of denial of accommodation in the last minute. However, our comrades rose to the occasion and overcame all these challenges and made the AIC a historic success. Now, the Reception Committee has finalised the accounts and has donated Rs. 2,00,000 to the CHQ from the surplus on 29.03.2021. CHQ heartily congratulates and thanks the Reception Committee for completing the accounts and donating Rs.2 lakh to CHQ.



Dharna on 16-03-2021 - let us give a thunderous blow to the Anti-Pensioner Government and arrogant BSNL Management.

CHQ is aware that preparations are going in full swing all over the country for the successful conduct of the second phase of our agitational programme, Mass Dharna at maximum centers on 16-03-2021. Let us mobilize maximum pensioners for the Dharna and the demands put forward are very important concerning all our pensioners. Among the demands only one demand, payment of balance 8% Ex-Gratia to VRS retirees has been settled now.

Pension Revision is being denied to the BSNL absorbed pensioners for the last four years without any justification. To add insult to the injury, IDA also being denied despite High Court order, when the prices of essential commodities are increasing like sky rocketing. The anti-pensioner Modi government has already snatched away Rs.37,530 crore by freezing the Dearness Relief of central government pensioners during these hard days of pandemic.

The arrogant BSNL management continues to be completely negative on payment of medical benefits to the BSNL pensioners in spite of repeated pursuals at all levels. We have conducted several struggles also on this vital issue. But management turns a blind eye to the miseries of ailing and aged pensioners. CHQ has recently brought this burning issue to the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare. But the reply by BSNL management is on the same lines that medical bills with voucher and without voucher are pending due to paucity of fund. So it is very clear that the management is not willing to give any priority to this vital issue of the seniors.

While processing the pension papers, the CCAs are unilaterally reducing the Last Pay Drawn digging out fixations made before 25-30 years ago. This is in violation of the standing instructions and clarification issued by Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare to the effect that the verification of pay of the retiring official be limited to 24 months preceding to retirement. But some of the arrogant

officers of DoT are not prepared to change this most unjustified system resulting in great loss in the pension of many retirees, particularly VRS retirees.

Ex-gratia and pensionary benefits are denied to 199 VRS retirees of Maharashtra for alleged non-validation of Caste certificates. This very issue has arisen due to the lapse on the part of the respective SSA administration, failing to verify the caste certificate during the initial period of appointment, as had been repeatedly instructed by DOPT, DOT and even BSNL. Further the Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes have issued clear instructions to the effect that pension and other retirement benefits should not be denied to pensioners belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes for non-verification of caste certificates, even after 30-35 years. Also, it has been instructed by the Parliamentary Committee, no verification of caste certificate be made for officials recruited before 1995. CHQ had brought all these facts to the CMD, BSNL and Secretary, DoT several times but to no avail. CHQ also wrote to the Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Tribes seeking intervention.

The problem of unjustified and unwarranted notice by Income Tax Department to VRS retirees demanding tax for the leave encashment for the leave earned in government service was taken up with the Finance Minister and top officers of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. An officer from CPC, Bangalore has contacted General Secretary over phone on 4th March, 2021 and asked for certain clarification and was replied suitably. It seems that the Income Tax Department is reviewing the issue.

So, Comrades, our fight is for the settlement of genuine issues and against the apathy and neglect of the government and authorities. Let us make it a stupendous success. Definitely, Victory shall be ours. ■



Central Executive Committee Meeting Decisions.

Help the agitating farmers.

The Central Executive Committee Meeting has been held virtually on 23-01-2021. Com. Ananta Kr Bhattacharjee, President presided. Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri, Advisor inaugurated. Com. P. V. Chandrasekharan, Patron delivered the keynote address.

The CEC paid tributes to the martyrs and the bereaved, including Com.S S Roy, Working President, NCCPA, Com. S.C.Srivastava, Circle President, MP and former CHQ Vice President and Com. Abdul Rashid, founder Circle Secretary, UP(W).

The report and accounts presented by Com. K.G.Jayaraj, General Secretary and Com.R.A.Nair, Treasurer, respectively, were approved after discussion.

Resolutions on important issues were also adopted. Out of 26 Circles, 25 were represented.

The CEC Meeting has decided to organise agitational program on the following important issues.

- 1) Pension Revision.
- 2) Non-payment of Medical claims, Allowance and one-time payment made to CGHS.
- 3) Restore DR frozen from 01-01-2020 to DoT Pensioners and issue orders for payment of IDA from 01-10-2020 to BSNL Pensioners.
- 4) Immediate payment of balance 8% Ex-Gratia to VRS retirees and settle disputed LPD as per clarification of DoP&PW and Caste validation based on the directive issued by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The CEC authorized CHQ to decide the form of agitation at the appropriate time.

The CEC decided to launch an effective membership and Tele Pensioner campaign, the

period be decided by the Circles according to local conditions.

The CEC also took serious note on the continuing historic agitation of the farmers since November 26th,2020 braving all the adverse conditions and decided to help them. An amount of Rs.5 lakhs is decided to be donated. The Circles are requested to donate as per the quota allotted below. The balance will be borne by CHQ.

1) Kerala	-	Rs.30,000
2) Tamil Nadu	-	Rs.25,000
3) Chennai	-	Rs.10,000
4) Karnataka	-	Rs.20,000
5) Andhra	-	Rs.15,000
6) Telangana	-	Rs.15,000
7) Maharashtra	-	Rs.15,000
8) Gujarat	-	Rs.15,000
9) Madhya Pradesh	-	Rs.15,000
10) Chhattisgarh	-	Rs.5,000
11) Bihar	-	Rs.5,000
12) Odisha	-	Rs.5,000
13) West Bengal	-	Rs.20,000
14) Kolkata	-	Rs.20,000
15) TF, Kolkata	-	Rs.5,000
16) Assam	-	Rs.10,000
17) NE-I	-	Rs.5,000
18) NE II	-	Rs.5,000
19) UP(East)	-	Rs.10,000
20) UP (West)	-	Rs.10,000
21) Haryana	-	Rs.10,000
22) Punjab	-	Rs.10,000
23) Rajasthan	-	Rs.10,000
24) NTR Delhi	-	Rs.5,000
25) ALTTC	-	Rs.2,500
26) J& K	-	Rs.2,500
27) CORTO	-	Rs.10,000

The amount will be donated on 27-01-2021. So, Circles are requested to remit the amount to CHQ account by NEFT/ transfer from the Circle fund at the earliest.

Com. N Guruprasad, Circle Secretary, Kerala effectively hosted the virtual meeting.



Protest along with NJCA on 1st February Call Attention Day.

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE OF PENSIONERS ASSOCIATIONS

(Registered under the T.U. Act.No. RTU01/2021.Dated.7.01.2021)

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PRESIDENT: Com.Shiv Gopal Mishra.(97176 47594)

SECY. GENERAL: Com.K.K.N.Kutty. (98110 483030)

Dated: 22nd January, 2021

Dear Comrades,

The National JCA has called upon the employees and workers to observe 1st Feb. 2021 as call attention day to bring to the notice of the Government of the growing discontent amongst the employees over the long pending demands. The Confederation of Central Government employees and workers, while endorsing the call, as they are integral part of the NJCA has asked the employees to observe the 1st Feb. 2021 as protest day. As you are aware we sail in the same boat in as much as the Government has so far lent a deaf ear to the issues of Pensioners in the country. The dearness relief, the two instalments of which have already become due along with the third would be kept frozen and the consequent arrears permanently forfeited. So far as you are aware, the major chunk of the benefits of the 20 trillion package has gone to the corporate houses in the country, especially the Adanis and Ambanis. The Circular letter of Confederation, which is reproduced hereunder pin points the objective to be achieved during the observance of the protest day on 1st February, 2021. The NJCA and Confederation together is the biggest united platform of Central Government employees.

The NCCPA calls upon its affiliates and State Units to join the struggle along with the working employees on 1st Feb. 2021 and organise dharna or demonstration in as many places as possible to convey the message that the Pensioners share the same perception as explicitly spelt out by the Secretary General, NJCA and the Confederation. By synchronizing our action with that of the working employees we are uniting all those who are opposed with the Government policies. The farmers of the country are waging a very determined battle undaunted by the threats and repressive measures unleashed by the Government. They must win and their victory shall be the first salvo against an authoritarian regime. On 1st February, 2021, while we demonstrate for getting our demands conceded, it will also be to pay the solidarity and support to the struggling farmers of the country. Kindly talk to the leaders of the working employees and ensure that the programme has the largest participation of the Pensioners. The charter of demands we had finalised and that we have decided to pursue through struggles is enclosed.

Wishing your efforts to make the programme on 1st Feb. 2021, the day the Budget for the year 2021-22 is likely to be presented by the Finance Minister reverberate throughout the country with cent per cent participation of the members and with greetings,

Yours fraternally,

KKN Kutty

Secretary General.

NCCPA CHARTER OF DEMANDS.

- 1) Implement Option No. 1 as a pension fitment formula as recommended by the 7th CPC.
- 2) Revise the Pension of BSNL absorbed retirees immediately with 15% fitment; recommended by the 3rd PRC and approved by the government from 01-01-2017, delinking the wage revision in BSNL. Clear all pending medical bills and medical allowance;
- 3) Evolve a policy for automatic grant of pension and other pensioner's benefits to the pensioners and retirees of the autonomous bodies on par with the Central Govt. Pensioners.



- 4) Provide (a) notional fixation of pension under Option No. 3 on the basis of the pay scale/pay level of the cadre or grade from which the pensioner retired. (b) Provide fixation of pension in the case of all pre 2006 pensioners on the basis of the grade pay/pay level or pay scale of the post or cadre from which one has retired as per the judgments of Courts.
- 5) Extend the benefit of CS(MA) Rules to all pensioners who are not covered by CGHS.
- 6) Increase the FMA to Rs. 2000 as has been granted to PF Pensioners.
- 7) Raise the minimum pension to 60% of the Minimum wage. i.e. Rs. 10,800 p.m.
- 8) Restore the commutation portion of pension after 10 years.
- 9) Provide increased rates of pension on attainment of 70 years onwards.
- 10) Scrap the New Contributory pension scheme and restore the defined benefit pension
- 11) Revise the pension of the Punjab National Bank pensioners and settle the anomalies in pension and other benefits arising out of the amalgamation of Banks.
- 12) Provide the benefits arising from the court judgements to all similarly placed pensioners. Viz. the court order for the grant of one notional increment for those who retire on 30th June and grant of MACP with effect from 1.1.2006
- 13) Introduce medical insurance scheme for pensioners, whoever opts for such a scheme as per the recommendation of the Pay Commission.
- 14) Orders be issued by DPE for payment of IDA installments due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 to BSNL Pensioners.

Protest Day of NCCPA on 01-02-2021





P&T Trade Union Movement in India - 20

Unity and Struggle – Towards 1974 Strike.

V.A.N. Namboodiri, Advisor, AIBDPA

Acceptance of the retrograde recommendations of the CPC without any favourable amendments as demanded by the unions/federations met with strong opposition. A Convention of all Central government Employees' Unions and federations was held at the Constitution Club Hall, New Delhi to review the situation. AIRF, NFIR, AIDEF, Confederation, NFPTE (both groups) – all participated. Most of the unions supported direct action. AIRF was strongly in support of a strike. They issued a call for strike w.e.f. 8th May 1974.

NFPTE (KG Bose) issues Strike Notice.

Confederation and NFPTE (K.G.Bose Group) also called upon the workers for a united struggle from the same date after a meeting of the Circle Secretaries and decision to that effect. Notice was served on the government intimating the decision to go non-cooperation/ work-to-Rule from 8th May and Indefinite Strike w.e.f. 10th May 1974.

Strike in Railways.

The AITUC leadership formed a union by name “Indian Railway Workers Federation” and started discussion with the government in the hope that some issues will be settled and the strike can be averted and grant of recognition obtained to it by utilising the situation.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was rattled by the call for strike. Government acted fast. George Fernandez, Secretary General, AIRF was arrested from Lucknow and put in Tihar Jail in New Delhi on 2nd May, six days before the strike. This infuriated the railway workers who went on spontaneous strike which spread like wild fire. The entire Railways were at standstill within one or two days. The historic strike of Railway Workers which was to continue for weeks had started. Work-to-Rule and Non-Cooperation struggle started in P&T and Central government offices on 8th May and Strike started on 10th May 1974 as given notice of.

The government was not sitting idle. It enforced all the repressive measures like Defence of India Rules (DIR), Maintenance of Internal Security Act(MISA) etc. to crush the strike and teach a lesson to the workers. Central reserve police (CRP) and Railway Protection Force were used to arrest and physically thrash the striking railway workers. Railway colonies were attacked and all workers arrested and their families including women and children thrown out without any mercy. Electricity and water connections were cut. Thousands and thousands were arrested, jailed, dismissed, suspended and brutally attacked and maimed. It was a total war against workers. It is to the credit of the Railway workers and their leadership that the strike continued for about three weeks despite the unprecedented repression. The strike was withdrawn by George Fernandez and other leaders from the jail after 20 days. The epic struggle was over and the train services started limping back.

Strike in P&T and Central Services.

The OPG-Pirmanathan group in P&T stabbed the strike from the back. They issued a circular calling upon the P&T employees not to participate in the strike called by KG Bose-A.S.Rajan leadership. When the entire railway and central employees were on strike and being attacked, the action of their group was nothing short than the role of black-legs and strike-breakers. The government obliged them by signing an agreement on 20% promotions in the night of 8/9th May 1974, which they claimed as a big achievement. The government issued Fax messages to all P&T offices in the country with the direction to put the same in the notice board to keep away the workers from strike. S.Madhusudan, leader of the Civil Aviation, did the role of disruptor in the Central government sector.

As a result, the strike was partial in both P&T and Central government departments. In Kerala,



W.Bengal, Assam etc. the strike was total despite disruption by the reformist all India leadership. In the complicated situation and repression, S.K.Vyas – A.S.Rajan – K.G.Bose leadership called off the strike on 12th May 1974. In Kerala, it continued for one more day.

The Strike and aftermath.

The working class has learned important lessons from the 1974 strike. It not only showed the anti-people class character of the government but also that it will use all its repressive force to crush the struggles of the working class. The role of the reformist leaders at the critical juncture of struggle was unmasked. They became the agents of government to betray the organised struggles of the working class to the benefit of their vested interests. It also showed that most of the workers are committed to the organisation and will face any attack to fight for their rights and defend their organization. These were great lessons for the future.

The historic 1974 strike by the Railway and CG employees is an important mile stone in the history of the Indian working class.

Anti-Victimisation Day on 7th June 1974.

While there was maximum victimization in Railways, many workers in P&T were victimized. There were large number of charge sheets and punishments. An Anti-Victimisation Day was observed on 7th June 1974 demanding all victimization in connection with the strike.

20% Promotion Agreement by the disruptors.

In order to wean away workers and to defeat the strike, an agreement was hatched up by OP Gupta group with the P&T Department just before the strike proposing 20% promotion in the P&T. The agreement surrendered many benefits of the workers in the name of promotion.

After the strike, NFPTE led by KG Bose gave a call for Protest Day on 18th July 1974 on the following demands and against the anti-worker agreement signed by OPG:

1. No conversion of posts, but to create additional promotional posts to the extent of 20%.
2. No withdrawal of in-charge allowance in view of converted promotional posts

3. No introduction of one third selection quota depriving seniors of their legitimate promotion.

Telegrams containing these demands were sent by Branch unions to the Communications Minister and DG P&T.

The anti-strike role taken by O.P.Gupta was rewarded by the Department by granting recognition to the disruptors in P.IV Union, instead of to K.Adinarayana, the democratically elected General Secretary. However, Adi got a stay order from the Delhi High Court and recognition was restored.

The 1974 victimisation continued for a long time and was not fully vacated till the Congress was defeated and the Janata Party formed the government in 1976.

All India convention of Central Trade Unions on 21-22 July 1974.

After the Railway and CGE Strike, government started further attacks on the workers. Government promulgated Compulsory Deposit Scheme (CDS) and denial of Dearness Allowance. An All India Convention of Central Trade Unions was held at New Delhi on 21-22 July to discuss how to face the government offensive. INTUC, AITUC and HMS, however kept away from the convention. Federations of the CG Employees, State employees and Unions participated. The following programmes were decided:

1. Mass Rallies before Parliament, State Assemblies and Dist. Administration on 9th August 1974
2. Protest Week from 9th August, with daily demonstration
3. National Convention at Delhi on 28th August 1974.

The programmes were fully and effectively implemented. The National Convention of All Working People was held on 28th August 1974 at Mavlankar Hall, New Delhi with participation of more than 2000 delegates from various organizations.

The convention passed resolutions opposing the wage freeze and demanded reduction of prices of essential commodities. It demanded the government to end all victimization of the central



and state government employees in connection with the 1974 strike.

Unity Talks in NFPTE.

The latest developments including the DA freeze, implementation of MISA and DIR, recognition of the Cadre union of the ‘Telephone Traffic Employees Association’ – all these compelled the leaders of both sides to start discussion regarding organisational unity. G.Laxmanan, M.P., former leader of P.III Union, called both sides for a discussion on 22-11-1974 which was participated by A.S.Rajan, N.J.Iyer, K.Adinarayana, O.P.Gupta, K.L.Moza and other leaders.

K.G.Bose, who was seriously ill, was admitted in a London Hospital for treatment of the dreaded cancer by this time and he could not attend the NFPTE activities.

K.G.Bose passed away.

Revolutionary leader and President of NFPTE passed away on 11th December 1974 at Royal Hospital London, where he was admitted for treatment of dreaded cancer. The entire P&T Fraternity was in shock and dismay at the loss of the great leader who inspired the entire workers and guided the progressive forces.

Krishna Gopal Basu was born on 07-07-1921 and entered P&T Department in 1941 and was posted in DET (O), Calcutta. He was attracted

to the union from the start and became an active worker. Along with B.N.Ghosh he ensured that the entire P&T workers in Bengal participated in the 1946 P&T Strike. He was jailed and later dismissed in connection with the proposed 1949 P&T Strike and was never reinstated. K.G.Bose was one of the leaders who actively worked for the formation of NFPTE. He became the All India President of the P.III Union as also the Circle Secretary of P.III and E.III Union, W.Bengal circle. In the 1971 Federal Council held at Vijayawada, he was elected as President of NFPTE and again in the Federal Council held at Calcutta in 1971.

K.G.Bose was elected as MLA to the W.Bengal Assembly. He was one of the members of the Pay Commission appointed to recommend the pay revision of the W.Bengal State government employees.

As the leader of the progressive section of NFPTE, he spearheaded many struggles. He toured throughout the country and organized the P&T and Central Government employees. His simplicity and approach to the workers were appreciated by all.

His health deteriorated and it was diagnosed that he was suffering from cancer. He was admitted to a London Hospital for expert treatment. He breathed his last on 11th December 1974.

KG Bose will always be remembered as one of the greatest leaders of the P&T TU movement.

(...to be continued...)

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K.G. Jayaraj
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AIBDPA/AGN/PRESS/2021

20th February, 2021

PRESS STATEMENT.

All India BSNL DOT Pensioners, Association is all set to launch a two phased struggle against the negative and inhuman approach of the central government and the BSNL management as well.

The government has turned down the demand of pension revision due from 01-01-2017 without any justification. AIBDPA has rightly demanded to revise the pension of the absorbed BSNL retirees with 15% fitment, recommended by the 3rd PRC from 01-01-2017, delinking wage revision. Last pension revision was implemented from 01-01-2007 with the 30% fitment recommended by the 2nd PRC. But the central government is denying the pension revision on the plea that pension revision is possible only after wage revision in BSNL. However, the fact is that full liability of payment of pension and pensionary benefits of absorbed BSNL retirees lies with the central government as per the pension rules amended from time to times and it has nothing to do with the financial crisis of BSNL.

The government talk about the senior citizens in high regards but unfortunately it happens to be just the opposite in practical. The government under the cover of Covid-19 pandemic chose to freeze the Dearness Allowance of pensioners from 01-01-2020 to 30-06-2020. The IDA installments due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 are not paid to absorbed BSNL Pensioners even though freezing of IDA to CPSEs is not applicable to pensioners.

BSNL management is denying the medical benefits to BSNL pensioners for the last 3 years. After much pressure through representations to the Minister for Communications and Prime Minister and several struggles, medical bills up to 31-03-2019 only is cleared and even the curtailed medical allowance since 2018 is not paid. No pension revision, no IDA and the management is least concerned about the hardships and distress of the hapless pensioners, including those suffering from serious diseases like cancer, kidney and heart ailments.

78,569 BSNL employees had retired on VRS on 31-01-2020 and 8% of balance Ex-gratia is yet to be paid which was to be completed before 30-06-2020. The authorities are resorting to a negative stand in resolving the arbitrary reduction in the last pay of these retirees and disputed caste certificates based on approved norms.

The first phase is a CALL ATTENTION DAY on 26-02-2021 and the pensioners of all the units of the organization throughout the country will hold demonstration and send emails to the Minister of Communications, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and CMD, BSNL demanding settlement of the above important and long pending issues.

MASS DHARNA on 16-03-2021 will be conducted at maximum centers in the country as the second phase of agitation.

K G Jayaraj
General Secretary



Organise the following two phased agitation successfully.

[AIBDPA/ Circular No.1 /2021 dated 17th February, 2021]

As you are aware the Central Executive Committee Meeting was held online on 23-01-2021. Com.V.A.N Namboodiri inaugurated the CEC with a brief but inspiring speech. Com.A K Bhattacharjee, President presided and delivered the presidential address. Com.K.G. Jayaraj, General Secretary presented the report and Com.R.A. Nair, Treasurer submitted the unaudited accounts. There was very good participation and all the circles, barring UP(E) were represented. The CEC reviewed the issues and the agitations conducted as per the decision of Guwahati CEC and present position. Almost all the comrades participated in the discussion strongly opined that another phased programme of agitation has to be launched on important issues, including pension revision and denial of medical claims. The CEC authorized CHQ to decide the form of agitation and suitable dates.

Accordingly, CHQ has decided a two phased agitation raising Pension Revision, Non-Payment of medical benefits, Freezing of DR and non-payment of IDAs and the issues of VRS retirees including non-payment of balance 8% Ex-gratia.

(I) CALL ATTENTION DAY ON 26-02-2021.

E-mail campaign by all the units on 26-02-2021 to Minister of Communications (moc-office@gov.in), Secretary, DoT(secy-dot@nic.in) and CMD, BSNL (cmdbsnl@bsnl.co.in).

Text of the email.

Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad
Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT
Sanchar Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110001

Shri. Anshu Prakash
Secretary,
Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhawan,
New Delhi -110001

Shri. P K Purwar
CMD, BSNL,
Bharat Sanchar Bhawan
Janpath
New Delhi - 110001

Respected Sir,

We request you to kindly cause necessary action for early settlement of the following issues of the BSNL and DoT retirees, pending for long time, without further delay.

- 1) Pension Revision of absorbed BSNL retirees with 15% fitment on IDA scales from 01-01-2017, delinking wage revision.
- 2) Payment of Medical allowance (without voucher) is pending from 2018 and with voucher medical claims pending from 01-04-2019. Onetime payment paid for CGHS subscription is also pending in many circles.
- 3) Issues of VRS retirees.
 - (i) Non- payment of balance 8% Ex-gratia in violation of assurance.
 - (ii) Settle the LPD issue based on the clarification of DOP&PW and dispute of caste certificate as per the directive issued by Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
 - (iii) Immediate intervention to withdraw the notices under section 154 of the Income Tax Department for levying income tax for the leave earned during government service, contrary to the procedure being followed hitherto.
- 4) Immediate intervention to restore the DR freed from 01-01-2020 and Release of Two installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

.....
Circle/District/Area Secretary
.....



(II) TWO HOUR DHARNA ON 16-03-2021

The Dharna to be staged at maximum centers, minimum one center in an SSA/District, with good participation of pensioners, maintaining Covid-19 protocol, preferably from 1030 to 1230 before any of the BSNL office. Please give wide publicity of the Dharna highlighting the demands prominently by exhibiting banners/ posters, press statements to print and visual media. CHQ is trying to raise the issue in the Parliament through some MPs, as the Parliament will be in session during this time.

(III) MEMBERSHIP AND TELEPENSIONER CAMPAIGN.

The Central Executive Committee, after the report from the circles, has noticed that in many circles membership campaign, particularly among VRS retirees, could not be conducted effectively according to our potential. Main reason attributed is Covid-19 break out and the resultant lockdown. However, CHQ had issued a special circular along with an appeal to the VRS retirees well in advance, on 08.11.2019 to all the CHQ Office Bearers and Circle Secretaries highlighting the importance of enrolling VRS retirees. Now, the situation in the country is improving and we have to seize the opportunity for conducting an effective Membership Campaign. The subscription of Tele-Pensioner has come down drastically and the CEC has decided to have a Tele-Pensioner campaign also along with the Membership campaign. March/ April will be better time, climate wise, to undertake this important task. Let us collect Life Membership of Rs.1020 and for Tele-Pensioner, the Life Subscription is only Rs.500. Please discourage collecting annual membership as it will be difficult to get it renewed due to various reasons.

(IV) TELE-PENSIONER.

As you are aware, Tele Pensioner could not be printed in the year 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. However, three issues, January-June combined, July-September and October-December,2020 were published digitally and forwarded to circles for circulation to all. CHQ is hoping to revert to print mode from the first quarter of 2021.

(V) UTILIZE WHATSAPP GROUPS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

CHQ had pointed out the importance of maintaining WhatsApp groups at Circle and District levels for instant and effective communication in the earlier circulars. Accordingly, most of the circles have started the WhatsApp groups, some of the circles are having WhatsApp groups at the district level also. CHQ had specifically directed that the WhatsApp groups should be named AIBDPA—Circle/ District. CHQ cannot recognize WhatsApp groups in some other names. Unless General Secretary is added to the group, he will not be able to see these groups. At present, CHQ has observed that Punjab, NE-1, NE-II, Assam, Rajasthan, NTR Delhi, J&K, ALTTTC, Chennai Telephones and Chhattisgarh Circles are not maintaining the WhatsApp groups and once again request these circles to start the WhatsApp groups urgently. It would be better, if General Secretary is made one of the Admins. It is also reminded that all our important functionaries should visit our website and AIBDPA CHQ WhatsApp regularly which would enable access to latest news and developments and pass on to their respective website/WhatsApp groups without delay.

(VI) FARMERS AGITATION.

The agitation started on 26th November, 2020 is still continuing strongly. All the repressive measures and conspiracy to weaken the struggle by the Modi government are being resisted heroically. Modi government, wary of the international support to the farmers' agitation, is resorting to frame some of the activists in sedition charges.

As decided by the CEC, CHQ has donated Rs.5 lakh to the fighting farmers on 25-01-2021 from the CHQ fund. 50% of this amount is to be collected from the Circles and quota was fixed to all the Circles and affiliates. Most of the Circles and CORTO, affiliate, have already paid their share. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, NE-I, NTR Delhi and Odisha are yet to pay and request for early remittance.

Comrades, we are passing through a very critical and crucial period. The government and the authorities are least concerned about the serious issues of the pensioners, as in the case of workers, farmers and common people. We have no other option other than intensifying the struggle to achieve our genuine demands. So, let us strengthen the organisation and fight it out. Victory shall be ours..!



Shri. P R Natarajan MP's Letter to the Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises seeking intervention for payment of IDA installments to BSNL Pensioners and Non-Executive employees.

P.R. NATARAJAN

Member of Parliament
(Lok Sabha)
Coimbatore Constituency - Tamil Nadu
LEADER, CPI (M) LOK SABHA

MEMBER :

- Standing Committee on Information Technology
- Parliamentary Committee on Ethics
- Consultative Committee on Road Transport, Highways and Shipping



सत्यमेव जयते

315, V.P. House, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi - 110 001

138, Gandhipuram, 2nd Street Extn.,
Coimbatore - 641 012, Tamil Nadu
Tel. : 0422-2522570
Fax : 0422-2522218
Mobile : 09442102325

26.01.2021

To
Shri. Prakash Javedekar, Ji
Honourable Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
Government of India
New Delhi-110001
(Mail: prakash.j@sansad.nic.)

Dear Shri. Prakash Javedekar ji,
Republic Day Greetings.

It has come to my notice that the BSNL pensioners and employees of BSNL are not being paid two IDA installments due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021.

As you are aware that the Department of Public Enterprises, vide OM No.W-02/0039/2017-DPE(WC) GL XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020 has frozen three installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020, 01-01-2021 and 01-04-2021 to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs. BSNL Employees and Pensioners are being paid IDA based on the orders issued by DPE from time to time.

As BSNL pensioners are not covered in the DPE OM dated 19-11-2020, All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association has written to you vide their letter dated 22-11-2020 requesting your intervention for issuing orders/guidelines by the DPE for payment of IDA due from 01-10-2020 to BSNL pensioners.

Further, in a writ petition filed by FACT Employees Association & Others in the Kerala High Court, Assistant Solicitor General has deposed that the DPE OM dated 19-11-2020 is applicable only to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs, based on which Hon'ble Kerala High Court delivered its judgment on 17-12-2020 allowing the prayer of the petitioners.

(2)



P.R. NATARAJAN

Member of Parliament
(Lok Sabha)
Coimbatore Constituency - Tamil Nadu
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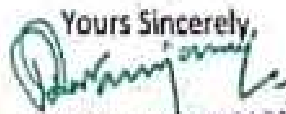
There after, DPE issued another OM on 08-01-2021, clarifying that in the OM dated 19-11-2020, it has been specifically mentioned that the freezing of three installments of IDA is applicable only to Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of the CPSEs and other employees , including workmen of the CPSEs , are not covered under these guidelines. By this time another installment of IDA also has become due from 01-01-2021.

However, this clarification is not sufficient for payment of IDA installments to BSNL pensioners and employees, as there is an agreement between the government and Unions during the formation of BSNL in 2000, to the effect that the employees and pensioners will be paid IDA based on the orders issued by DPE.

Hence, I seek your kind intervention to cause necessary action for issuing formal orders by DPE for the payment of two installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 to BSNL pensioners and employees of BSNL at the earliest.

Expecting an early favourable orders from you please.

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,

P.R. NATARAJAN, M.P.,
(P.R. Natarajan)
Member of Parliament
(Lok Sabha)
Coimbatore - 641 012.



मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन,
सूचना एवं प्रसारण और
भारी उद्योग एवं लोक उद्यम
भारत सरकार



MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE,
INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

प्रकाश जावडेकर
Prakash Javadekar

No. W-12/0002/2021-DPE(WC)

Shri P R Natarajan,

03 MAR 2021

Please refer to your DO letter dated 26.01.2021 regarding non-payment of two IDA instalments due from 01.10.2020 and 01.01.2021 to BSNL pensioners and employees of BSNL.

As clarified by Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in various forums including Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in the case of FACT Workers Association Vs Union of India that the OM dated 19.11.2020 regarding freezing of DA w.e.f. 01.10.2020 and 30.06.2021 is applicable to Executive and Non-Unionized Supervisors of CPSEs and not to workmen or pensioners of CPSEs. Salary and allowances including DA of workers of CPSEs are governed by the wage settlement between the Trade Unions/Associations and the Management of the CPSE concerned and DPE has no direct role in wage negotiations. Further, DPE does not issue instructions regarding DA rates for pensioners of CPSEs.

In view of the above, it is stated that OM dated 19.11.2020 is applicable to Executives and Non-Unionized Supervisors of CPSEs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Prakash Javadekar)

Shri P R Natarajan,
Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha
315, V.P. House, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-110 001

।। प्लास्टिक नहीं, कपड़ा सही ।।

कमरा सं. 176, 'ई' विंग, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, नई दिल्ली-110 011, दूरभाष : 91-11-23061782, फैक्स : 91-11-23062552
Room No. 176, 'E' Wing, 1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110 011, Tel. : 91-11-23061782, Fax : 91-11-23062552



Organisational Report

Assam

Pensioners' Guest House opened at Guwahati- Congratulations.

It is good news- A Pensioners' Guest House has been opened at CTO Compound, Panbazar, Guwahati, a prime location in the capital city of Assam. It may be the first in the country, a separate Guest House for the pensioners. AIBDPA, Assam Circle Branch had been pursuing the issue for the last nine years; hearty congratulations to Assam Circle Branch for this ideal achievement.

Shri G.K. Chin, Additional Controller General of Communication Accounts, DoT, New Delhi formally inaugurated the Pensioners' Guest House on 19-03-2021. Ms. B B Shabang, CCA, Assam presided over the function. Coms. M R Das (AGS), S N Sarma (Circle Secretary) Rahman (District Secretary, Guwahati) etc participated on behalf of AIBDPA.

Gujarat

Godhra District Branch formed.

Gujarat Circle, despite Covid-19 pandemic, is continuing its sincere efforts in widening the organisation. The relentless efforts to form the District Branch at Godhra has finally succeeded.

A well attended convention of retirees, including VRS retirees, was held on 21-02-2021 at Godhra. Com.N N Patel, Circle President controlled the proceedings. Com.M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary and CHQ Organising Secretary inaugurated the convention with an elaborate address covering the issues of the pensioners, functioning of AIBDPA and the struggles being organised to resolve the problems. Coms. Anand Singh, CHQ Vice President and District Secretary, BSNLEU, Vadodara, M K Dave, Circle Co-ordinator of VRS retirees also addressed the convention.

Thereafter Office Bearers for the 15th District Branch was elected unanimously. The following Comrades are the important functionaries;

Com. H B Parmar (President), Com. G J Raulji (District Secretary), Com. B T Patel (Treasurer).

BSNLEU District Branch, Godhra extended all help and cooperation in forming AIBDPA District Branch.

CHQ congratulates all the office bearers of Godhra District Branch and expresses its sincere gratitude to all the comrades for their wholehearted cooperation in forming the branch.

Gujarat going ahead despite COVID-19- Himatnagar District Branch formed.

Com.M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary and CHQ Organising Secretary is known for his silent but sincere and relentless efforts to strengthen AIBDPA in Gujarat. The Covid -19 pandemic situation did not deter him from continuing his efforts in widening the organisation to all over the circle.

Himatnagar district branch has been formed on 07-02-2021 in a largely attended meeting of pensioners. Com. N N Patel, Circle President presided over the meeting. Com.P K Patel, Co-ordinator welcomed the gathering. Com. M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary and CHQ Organising Secretary inaugurated with an inspiring speech. He explained the important issues of the pensioners and the functioning of AIBDPA.

A host of leaders, including Com. D K Bakutra, Circle Secretary, BSNLEU, Com.M K Dave, Circle Co-ordinator of VRS retirees, Com.V D Dhamsania, Circle Vice President, Com.G B Darji, Circle Patron, Com.Sunil J Thakar, District Secretary, BSNLEU addressed the meeting.

Office bearers were elected unanimously and the following are the important functionaries;

President : Com.P.S Upadhyaya
Dist.Secretary: Com. P K Patel
Treasurer: Com. A S Ansari.

More than 150 pensioners, including VRS retirees, joined AIBDPA on the spot. CHQ heartily congratulate all the comrades who took the initiative to form the district branch and also the newly elected office bearers.

Palanpur District Conference held successfully.

The second biennial District Conference was held successfully on 21-03-2021 at IMA Hall, Simlagate, Palanpur. Com.N M Parmar, District President was in chair. Com.Sitara Bai Kiri, Assistant District Secretary welcomed one and all. Com.N N Patel, Circle President inaugurated the Open Session and covered almost all the issues and the struggles being held for the settlement. A host of leaders, including Coms. V K Pandya, Circle Organising Secretary, G B Darji, DS, Mahesana, B S Rajput, Circle Vice President, A Y Ghori, District Secretary, BSNLEU etc addressed the conference.

The message of Com.M B Chaniyara, Circle Secretary & CHQ Organising Secretary was presented by Com.V M Darji, Assistant Circle Secretary.



The report and accounts presented by Com. Sitram Kiri, Asst. District Secretary and V M Darji, Treasurer, respectively were approved after discussion.

Office bearers were elected unanimously with Com. N M Parmar (President) Com. V M Darji (District Secretary) and Com. R P Khasatia (Treasurer)

Haryana

Rohtak District Branch reconstituted.

Rohtak District branch in Haryana Circle was defunct for some time due to the prolonged illness of the incumbent District Secretary. A meeting of the district branch held on the initiative of Com. Kuldeep Singh, Circle Secretary on 24th February, 2021 has reconstituted the District Branch.

Com. K S Hooda presided over the meeting. Coms. M S Kadian, Circle Patron & Circle Secretary, BSNLEU and Kuldeep Singh, Circle Secretary addressed the meeting and gave a good accounts of the recent developments and the agitational programme demanding settlement of important issues, including pension revision, early payment of medical benefits, issues of VRS retirees.

A new team of office bearers were elected unanimously for effective functioning of the branch.

President : Com. K S Hooda, District Secretary : Com. Sushil Kumar Punia and Treasurer : Com. Com. Ramkishan.

Karnataka

6th Hubli District Conference held most successfully.

The 6th biennial District Conference of Hubli (Dharwad District) has been held with good participation of pensioners on 09-03-2021. Com. S M Geetha, District President presided over the conference. Com. Muddaiah, Circle Secretary inaugurated with a detailed speech. He explained the present position of the important issues including pension revision, non-payment of medical benefits, problems of the VRS retirees etc. He also appealed to participate in the Dharna on 16-03-2021, called by CHQ for the settlement of these issues.

Com. G G Patil, former Assistant General Secretary delivered the keynote address and explained in detail the formation of AIBDPA, the struggles conducted and its growth as a militant and strong pensioners association and stressed the need to strengthen the organisation further.

Earlier, Com. A D Kulkarni, District Secretary, welcomed the gathering and presented the report and accounts. Com. H C Prakash, AGS addressed the conference and gave a good account of recent developments. Coms. L D

Durgad, ACS, H M Naik, DS, Ranebennur and Harish Doddamani, former DS, BSNLEU also addressed the conference. The report and accounts were adopted after discussion.

A new set of office bearers were elected unanimously with the following important functionaries;

President : Com. P P Nayak
District Secretary : Com. M F Mudenur
Treasurer : Com. S B Paramashetty

Telangana.

District Conference of Khammam and 20th Anniversary of BSNLEU held jointly.

The 4th District Conference of Khammam, Telangana Circle has been held in a befitting manner on 22-03-2021. 20th Anniversary of BSNLEU, the mighty organisation was also celebrated on the occasion. Com. J Sampath Rao, AGS & Circle Secretary inaugurated the conference explaining the formation of BSNLEU at Visakhapatnam on 21-03-2001, its growth as the main recognised union, the sustained struggles conducted for the settlement of genuine demands of the workers and protection of BSNL from privatisation. He also reminded that AIBDPA & BSNLCCWF were formed by BSNLEU and appealed for strengthening these organisations to face the serious challenges ahead.

Coms. D Shankar, CHQ Vice President and Ramachandradu, Circle Secretary explained the issues of the pensioners and the recent struggles conducted for pension revision, medical benefits, DR and IDA and issues of VRS retirees.

A host of leaders, including, Coms. G. Sambasiva Rao, ACS, BSNLEU, B S Veeraswamy, Circle President, Srinivas, District Secretary, SNPWA and Jaganmohan Reddy addressed the conference. Office bearers were elected unanimously with Coms. Rajaiiah (President) Thirumalachary (District Secretary) and Kiran Kumar (Treasurer).

Tamil Nadu

Dharmapuri District Conference held successfully.

The first District Conference of Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu was inaugurated by Com. N Kuppasamy, Circle Secretary on 17-02-2021. He explained in detail the issues being confronted by the pensioners and the struggles conducted by AIBDPA for settlement.

Com. D Bhaskaran presided over the conference. Com. S. Alagirisamy, District Secretary welcomed the gathering. Com. A Babu Radhakrishnan, Circle Secretary, BSNLEU addressed the conference with a detailed speech on present situation in BSNL. Com. M Narayanasamy,



former ACS, BSNLEU and Com. P Krishnan, District Secretary, BSNLEU greeted the conference.

Office bearers were elected unanimously with the following important functionaries;

President Com. R Gopalan, District Secretary Com. D Bhaskaran, Treasurer Com.MKuppusamy.

West Bengal

Burdwan District Convention held and Memari Branch formed.

A convention on “Ensuing Elections and our duty” was held at Memari by Burdwan District Branch on 14.03.2021. Com.DhananjayGanguly, Convenor, Pensioners Co-Ordination Committee, Durgapur inaugurated. Coms. Pijush Chakraborty was the main speaker and he underscored the necessity of replacing the present fascist government with a progressive government for the benefit of the people. A host of leaders, including Coms. Ashok Chatterjee, Convenor, Pensioners Coordination Committee, Burdwan, Sushil Ghosh (CORTO), BadreAlam (BSNLEU) SahifulJaman (CMU) and S P Ray (DS,AIBDPA)addressed. Coms.Manik Lal Das controlled the proceedings.

A new branch of AIBDPA, Memeari also was formed in the convention. An adhoc committee with Coms. Dibakar Das (President) Parthsarathi Roy (Secretary) and Subhas Sarkar (Treasurer) was elected unanimously.

Asansol 6th biennial district conference held befittingly.

The sixth biennial District Conference of Asansol, West Bengal was held on 07-03-2021 successfully. The Conference was formally inaugurated by veteran trade union leader and Convenor of Pensioners Coordination Committee, Durgapur, Com.DhananjayGanguly with an educative speech. Coms. Mridul Chatterjee, District Secretary and Dipak Chakraborty, Treasurer presented the report and accounts, respectively and was adopted after discussion. Com. Pijush Chakraborty, Circle Secretary delivered the inaugural address covering the issues of the pensioners and the struggles being organised and the recent developments including elections to the West Bengal legislature and our responsibilities.

A new set of office bearers were elected unanimously with Com. Mrityunjay Bhattacharjee (President) Com.Mridul Chatterjee (District Secretary) and Com.Dipak Chakraborty (Treasurer).

Circle Executive Committee meeting of Chennai Telephones.



Chennai Telephones has held the Circle Executive Committee Meeting at BSNLEU office on 06-02-2021. Com.E.Manibalan, Circle Vice President presided over the meeting. Com. V Kuppan, Circle Secretary welcomed and presented a brief report on the intervening period. Com.K Govindraj, Assistant Circle Secretary reported the decisions of the Central Executive Committee Meeting held on 23-01-2021.

After discussion, the CEC took the following decisions;

1) To implement the decisions of the Central Executive Committee meeting including struggles.

- 2) To accept the resignation of Treasurer, Com. N Raju on health problems and nominated Com. Senbakavalli Janarthanam , Asst Treasurer to function as Treasurer.
- 3) To clear the CHQ quota and donation quota for farmers’ struggle.
- 4) To form four district branches.
- 5) To conduct an effective membership and Tele Pensioner campaign.

With vote of thanks by Com. M Mahalingam, Circle Organising Secretary, the CEC was concluded.



West Bengal Circle Executive Committee meeting.

West Bengal Circle has held its Executive Committee meeting at CTO Office, Kolkata on 08.01.2021. Com. Susanta Ghosh, Circle President presided over the meeting. Com. Dipak Mitra, Vice President presented the condolence resolution. Com. K G Jayaraj, General Secretary was scheduled to inaugurate the CEC meeting through video conference but could not be materialised due to some technical problem. Though General Secretary tried to send a recorded speech, that also failed due to net problem at both end.

Com. Pijush Chakraborty, Circle Secretary presented the report for the intervening period which covered almost all the issues of the pensioners including pension revision, non-payment of medical claims, Non-payment of IDA due from 01-10-2020. Serious discussion took place and all the district secretaries attended and some of the circle office bearers participated. Com. Animesh Mitra, Circle Secretary and CHQ President, BSNLEU addressed the meeting and explained how the Modi government is trying to eliminate BSNL, creating roadblocks in starting the 4G services by BSNL.

Kolkata Telephones Circle Executive Committee Meeting.

Circle Executive Committee of AIBDPA Kolkata Telephone Circle was held on 19-01-2021. Com. Supriya Mitra, Circle President presided. Circle Secretary com. Sanjib Banerjee welcomed the participants and presented a brief report for the intervening period. Com. Mihir Dasgupta, Ashutosh Sen, Manisha Biswas, Ajit Dey Sarkar, Ranjit Das, Jayanti Chatterje, Sunil Datta, Dulal Saha, Tapan Datta, Hashi Dasgupta and com. P.M. Das took part in the discussion. Several decisions were taken, to strengthen our organization, to stand with the Kishan Movements, Membership of the VRS Retirees etc.



Circle Executive Committee meeting of Chennai Telephones.

Chennai telephones has held its Circle Executive Committee Meeting at BSNLEU Hall, Flower Bazar Telephone Exchange, Chennai on 20-03-2021. Com. E. Manibalan, Circle Vice President presided over the meeting. Com. V. Kuppan, Circle Secretary welcomed all and delivered the introductory speech mentioning the agenda items.

The CEC meeting reviewed the agitational programmes, particularly, the Dharna on 16.03.2021. Most of the comrades participated in the discussion. Thereafter the CEC meeting unanimously nominated Com. Senbagavalli Janarthanam as Circle Treasurer in place of Com. N Raju who resigned on personal grounds. The meeting also decided to form four district branches.



District Conference of Asansol, West Bengal held on 07-03-2021 .



Letters to Government & BSNL.

Payment of IDA installments to BSNL pensioners - request for issuing formal orders.

[AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2020 dated 9th January, 2021 to Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises]

- Ref: (1) DPE OM No-W/02/0039/2017-DPE(WC0 GL XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020
(2) DPE No. W-02/0045/2020-DPE (WC) dated 08-01-2020
(3) This Association Letter No.AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2020 dated 21-11-2020
(4) This Association Letter No.AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2020 dated 29-12-2020

Let me first of all express our sincere gratitude to you for the clarification issued by DPE vide Letter referred (2) above. The para 2 of the letter states;

“DPE vide OM dated 19-11-2020 has issued guidelines on freezing of IDA rate with w e f 01-10-2020 to 30-06-2021, in respect of Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs, following 2017, 2007, 1997, 1992 and 1987 IDA pay scales. Para 3 of the said OM, inter-alia, states that “the above guidelines shall be applicable in case of Executives and Non-Unionised

Supervisors of CPSEs drawing 2017, 2007, 1997, 199e and 1987 IDA pay scales.” The other employees including workmen of CPSEs are not covered under these guidelines.

The above clarification fully justifies our submissions mentioned in our letters referred to above. However, the fact remains that in accordance with the agreement reached with the government during the formation of BSNL, IDA to the employees is to be paid based on the formal orders issued by DPE. And this is being followed hitherto. Therefore, apart from the above clarification, separate orders have to be issued by DPE for payment of IDA installments @ 5.5% and 6.1% due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021, respectively to employees other than Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors and all the BSNL Pensioners, as well.

We now look forward for your noble gesture to issue the orders for payment of IDA installments by DPE at the earliest.

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.

[AIBDPA/DOT-BSNL/MH/2020 dated 12th January, 2021 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) 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.

Inclusion of AIIMS, Mangalagiri, in the CGHS empanelled list of Andhra Pradesh circle.

[AIBDPA/CHHS-AP/2021 dated 7th January, 2021 to Ms. Arti Ahuja I A S, Additional Secretary (Health) and Director General, CGHS, New Delhi]

We wish to bring to your kind notice the following genuine issues of the CGHS beneficiaries of Andhra Pradesh for favourable consideration.

We had already written to you vide our letter No.AIBDPA/CGHS-AP/2020 dated 23-11-2020 seeking your kind

initiative for sanction of one Additional Director for Andhra Pradesh. It was pointed out that even after a long duration of the bifurcation of the composite state of Andhra Pradesh in to Telangana and AP, Andhra Pradesh is still being governed by the Additional Director of Hyderabad, Telangana. So, it is once again requested to consider our request to mitigate the plight of CGHS beneficiaries of AP at the earliest.

Now, another issue has been brought to our notice. The number of empanelled Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh state is very less; only 24 including Dental and Eye Hospitals. Out of these, 15 are in Visakhapatnam and naturally the beneficiaries are in difficulties for want of sufficient number of empanelled hospitals near to their native places. All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) has started functioning at Mangalagiri which is between Vijayawada and Guntur. So, it will be much beneficial to the CGHS beneficiaries of Andhra Pradesh in general and those belonging to nearby districts in particular, if this premier hospital is included in the empanelled list of CGHS, AP.

We expect an early positive action at your end.

Non-provision in the SAMPANN Module to modify the Last Pay Drawn- urgent action sought.

[AIBDPA/DOT- LPP/AP/2020 dated 20th January, 2021 to Shri P.K. Sinha, Member (Finance) & Controller General of Communication Accounts, Dot]

It has been reported from some of the circle branches of this Association that the CCAs are unable to modify the Last Pay Drawn in the SAMPANN module as the software has no provision to do it. This is causing much difficulties to hundreds of pensioners as their actual last pay consequent on their promotion/ up gradation subsequently after sending their service books to the concerned CCAs for processing their pension, does not reflect in their pension and pensionary benefits and EX-Gratia in the case of BSNL VRS retirees.

We are furnishing here one of the cases for example;

Shri. Venkteswara Rao Medarametla, Telecom Technician, Vijayawada Telecom District availed BSNL VRS and was retired on 31-01-2020. He got his up gradation of NEPP w e f 01-10-2019 with the Last Pay of Rs.21,820 as per the pay slip issued for the salary of January, 2020. However, his service book had already been sent to the CCA and in the PPO his last Pay is given as Rs.21,180. Though his actual last



pay after the promotion was sent to the CCA, it could not be updated in the SAMPANN Module as there is no provision in the software to modify the Last Pay.

There are several similar cases pending with the CCAs for months together and the CCAs say that it has to be done at New Delhi. We naturally apprehend that this may also cause problem in determining the Ex-Gratia of such affected pensioners.

Therefore, we request your kind and urgent intervention to cause necessary action to upgrade the SAMPANN software with provision to modify the Last Pay Drawn, where ever required, so that the issue is settled without further delay.

Denial of pension & pensionary benefits for the last 16 months- case of Shri. ShriSukhdasSahu, Regular Mazdoor (Retd), BSNL Durg SSA, Chhattisgarh.

[AIBDPA/BSNL-DOT/PEN-CHH/2020 dated 29thJanuary, 2021 to Shri Kshatrapati Shivaji, Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW]

We are constrained to bring to your kind notice a very genuine issue of an hapless retired BSNL Mazdoor and his poor family for early intervention and redressal.

Shri. SukhdasSahu, Regular Mazdoor under reference has retired on superannuation on 30-09-2019. But even after 16 months of his retirement, he has not been paid pension and pensionary benefits; worse not even Provisional Pension, putting the family to utter poverty and distress. The reason attributed for the abnormal delay is that his Presidential Order of absorption in BSNL w e f 01-10-2000 is missing. And as such the CCA, Chhattisgarh returned the pension papers to BSNL for resubmission with the Presidential Order. Though the BSNL Circle Office, Raipur referred the matter to Corporate Office, New Delhi with all the required documents for issuing fresh Presidential Order, we are sorry to say that the issue is not being dealt with the seriousness it deserves.

In this connection, the issue was brought to the notice of CMD, BSNL by this Association vide our letter dated 13.10.2020 (Copy enclosed for ready reference) pointing out non-compliance of instructions issued by DoP&PW for processing pension papers well in advance and the pathetic condition of the sufferings of the poor family. It was specifically requested for early issuance of Presidential Order and grant of Provisional pension for the intervening period to save the family from starvation, but of no avail.

Therefore, we approach you with the fervent request to intervene in the matter considering the plight of the retiree and his family struggling to pull on without any source of income for the last 16 months.

Notice of Income Tax department to BSNL retirees for levying income tax for the exempted portion of leave earned during government service from leave encashment paid on retirement-intervention sought.

[AIBDPA/CMD-IT/2021 dated 4thFebruary, 2021 to Shri P.K. Purwar,CMD BSNL]

Ref: - **BSNL CO Letter No.1001-04/2011-12/Taxation/BSNL/LE/196 dated 04-05-2012.**

We wish to bring to your kind notice the issue under reference being faced by many BSNL retirees for appropriate action and favourable settlement.

According to the clarification letter of BSNL CO mentioned above, it is crystal clear that the leave earned during government service up to the formation of BSNL on 01-10-2000 and carried forward to BSNL is completely exempt from income tax under section 10(10AA) sub clause 1 of Income Tax Act, 1961 at the time of retirement. And, if such leave during government service is short of 300, then the balance leave earned during BSNL service is taxable subject to the exemption limit of Rs.3,00,000.

The letter further states that the TDS has to be regulated as per the above clarification.

Unfortunately, Centralized Processing Center of the Income Tax department, Bangalore is issuing notices to BSNL retirees under section 154 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, referring their returns filed for the year 2019-20, contrary to the contents of the clarification letter of BSNL dated 04-05-2012. (One of the notices is attached herewith for ready reference) This is causing much hardship and mental agony to the BSNL retirees, as most of them had full 300 leave to their credit at the time of their absorption in BSNL and if at all any short of 300 earned during BSNL service, it is within the limit of exemption of Rs.3,00,000.

Therefore, we fervently request you to kindly do the needful in the matter by taking up the issue with the Income Tax Department to avoid further action in this regard.



Wrong entry in the PPOs of BSNL absorbed VRS retirees, retired under BSNL VRS 2019 scheme - remedial action sought.

[AIBDPA/ DOP&PW/VRS-PPO/2021 dated 6thFebruary, 2021 to Shri Kshatrapati Shivaji, Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW]

We are constrained to bring to your kind notice the issue under reference which is disturbing the minds of the VRS retirees for favourable action and settlement.

78,569 BSNL employees have availed the VRS on 31-01-2020, as part of BSNL revival package approved by the government on 23-10-2019. BSNL absorbed employees are entitled to get pension and pensionary benefits as per Rule 37A of the CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 and the same has been reiterated in para 6-2 of Annexure A of BSNL VRS Order issued on 04-11-2019;

“VRS opted employee is entitled to terminal benefits and other benefits as per the existing rules.” The existing rules are CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. Surprisingly, in the relevant column of PPOs of the VRS retirees, Rules under which pension sanctioned, it is stated “BSNL VRS 2019” instead of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972.

Naturally, this has caused concerns and mental agony to the VRS retirees. This Association took up the issue with DoT and discussions had with the Member (Finance) who took the stand that nothing wrong in the entry and VRS retirees would get all the benefits similar to the superannuation retirees. But this was not enough to allay the apprehensions and concerns of the BSNL VRS retirees in the absence of a written assurance. Therefore, we wrote to the Secretary, DoT, repeatedly for remedial action, either by replacing the entry with CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 or by amending the pension rules to this effect. Unfortunately, there has been no response or positive action so far.

Hence, we fervently request your favour of intervention in the matter to cause appropriate action to settle the issue satisfactorily so that the mental agony of the VRS retirees could be dispelled.

Disbursement of IDA installments due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 to BSNL pensioners.

[AIBDPA/DOT-IDA/2021 dated 10thFebruary, 2021 to Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Telecom, DoT]

Ref: (1) DPE OM No.W/02/0039/2017-DPE(WC) GL XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020
(2) DPE No.W-02/0045/2020-DPE(WC) dated 08-01-2021
(3) DPE Letter No.W-02/0045-DPE(WC) dated 04-02-2021 addressed to Secretary, DoT

All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association has been pursuing the issue of non-payment of IDA installments to the BSNL pensioners with the Hon'ble Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and the Secretary, DPE as the DPE OM dated 19-11-2020, freezing three installments of IDA, is not applicable to BSNL pensioners. Later, this has been clarified by DPE vide letter dated 08-01-2021 by stating that freezing of IDA installments is applicable only to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs.

In this connection, we draw your kind attention to the letter of DPE dated 04-02-2021, in response to our letter dated 09-01-2021, addressed to the Secretary, DoT and copy endorsed to this Association. Now, we request you to kindly cause necessary action to give instructions to the CCAs, Banks and Post Offices for payment of two installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 without further delay.

Reduction in Last Pay Drawn by CCA, Bhubaneswar in violation of statutory rules and clarification issued by DOP&PW- and recovery notice issued by BSNL violating guidelines issued by DOPT and DOP&PW- case of Shri. Thabir Sahoo, TT (Rtd), BSNL, Bhawanipatna, Odisha.

[AIBDPA/ DOPPW/LPD/2021 dated 10thFebruary, 2021 to Shri Kshatrapati Shivaji, Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW]

Ref:- (1) Department of Posts letter No.100-1/2020-Pension dated 27th July, 2020
(2) DOPPW/E/2021/03483 dated 31-01-2021

A kind attention is drawn on the subject under reference and the PG grievance lodged vide ref No.2 above.

Unfortunately, the grievance lodged was disposed of on 05-02-2021, a bit hastily, may be due to the misunderstanding report from DoT. Actually, nothing has been done on the original complaint of arbitrary reduction in the LPD and the recovery notice issued by BSNL.



The Last Pay Drawn by the retired official was Rs.23,440 on 31-01-2020 (Copy of Pay slip attached). The CCA, Bhubaneswar reduced the LPD to Rs. 21,730 alleging a wrong pay fixation done in 1996. The misunderstanding report of DoT that the pay of the official has been increased from Rs.21,730 to Rs.22,390 is based on the NEPP promotion order issued on 24-09-2020 (copy enclosed), almost ten months after his retirement. And this has nothing to do with the original complaint.

In this connection, we wish to bring to your kind notice of the directives issued by Department of Posts, referred to (1) above based on the clarification issued by your esteemed department, DOP&PW.

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 the given case, the CCA, Bhubaneswar has dug out pay a fixation given 24 years ago; instead of 24 months.!

We are at a loss to understand why such a directive is not issued by Department of Telecommunications. Department of Posts and Department of Telecommunications are under the same Ministry of Communications and as such it is unjust and discrimination to deny the applicability of the procedure being followed by the Department of Posts to the employees of DoT. Sir, this issue warrants your intervention to ensure equal treatment and natural justice. If not done, it naturally amounts to denial of fundamental rights ensured by the Indian Constitution.

Also, BSNL has not yet withdrawn the recovery notice issued to the hapless retiree in violation of the guidelines issued by DOPT, DOP&PW and DOT based on the verdict of the apex court.

So, it is once again requested to review the issue based on the above facts so that justice is extended to the poor retiree.

Notice of Income Tax Department to BSNL pensioners for levying income tax from leave encashment on retirement for the exempted leave earned during government service.

[AIBDPA/IT-PEN/FM/2021 dated 13thFebruary, 2021 to Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance]

Ref: **Notice under section 154 of Income Tax Act, 1961 being issued by Centralized Processing Centre, Income Tax, Bangalore and Ghaziabad.**

We wish to bring one of the most important and agitating issues of the BSNL pensioners to the notice of your good self for kind intervention and early redressal, please.

Many BSNL pensioners are getting notices under section 154 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 from the CPCs, Bangalore and Ghaziabad stating that "the excess claim of exemption claimed u/s 10(10AA) is proposed to be withdrawn by restricting it to Rs.3,00,000 in view of the CBDT notification". Initially these were received for the IT Return filed for the year 2019-20 and now, it is reported that, some of the pensioners have got it for the Return filed for the year 2018-19 also.

The issue relates to the leave encashment during retirement. A maximum of 300 earned leave is allowed to be en-cashed by a government employee; so also BSNL employee. BSNL was formed on 01-10-2000 and all the employees in the Department of Telecommunications were transferred, rather absorbed in BSNL. According to the agreement reached with the Unions, the government agreed to pay the pension and terminal benefits to the absorbed employees from the Consolidated Fund and Rule 37 of CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 was amended for this purpose. All earned leave and half pay leave in the credit of each employee were carried forward to the new entity. So, BSNL and MTNL absorbed pensioners have a special status that 100% liability of pension and pensionary benefits are borne by the Central Government.

The earned leave carried forward from government service is completely exempt from Income Tax under section 10(10AA), sub clause (i) of Income Tax Act, 1961. And if the leave earned during government service is short of 300, then for the balance leave earned during BSNL service is taxable subject to the exemption limit of Rs. 3,00,000. Accordingly, BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi is regulating the process of computing and the respective Account Officers making deduction of income tax from each employee and remitting to the Income Tax Department. This position has been clarified/reiterated by BSNL vide its Letter No. 1001-04/2011-12/Taxation/BSNL/LE/196 dated 04-05-2012. (copy enclosed for ready reference)



Further, in a similar issue, the appeal filed by Shri. Babulal Patel, a retired employee of MTNL against levying income tax for the amount of encashment of leave earned in government service, appeal No.CIT(A)-46-ITO-34(1) IT-188/2016-17, in the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai, the Hon'ble Tribunal has allowed the appeal in its judgment pronounced on 05-02-2019.(copy enclosed)

Therefore, it is very clear that there is no justification on the part of the Income Tax Officers to issue such notices to the pensioners which in practical amounts to be harassment/ intimidation at their old age, putting them to unnecessary mental agony.

So, Madam, we request your kind intervention in the matter to prevent such unwarranted and unjustified actions of the Income Tax Department and to extend justice to the BSNL pensioners by causing necessary action to withdraw the notices under section 154 of IT Act, 1961.

Decision of the Central Executive Committee Meeting for Agitation on genuine and long pending issues of BSNL –DOT Pensioners- Notice thereof.

[AIBDPA/ DOT-BSNL/AGN/2021 dated 19thFebruary, 2021 to Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT and Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD, BSNL]

We are constrained to communicate you the decision of our Central Executive Committee Meeting held on 23-01-2021 through video conferencing to launch a two phased agitation against non-settlement of the following important issues.

- I. Call Attention Day on 26-02-2021** - emails will be sent to Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Secretary DoT and CMD, BSNL by all AIBDPA units.
- II. Mass dharna at SSA level on 16-03-2021.**

Demands.

(1) Pension revision.

Revise the pension of absorbed BSNL pensioners from 01-01-2017 with 15% fitment on new IDA pay scales, delinking wage revision of BSNL Employees.

(2) Non-payment of Medical claims- Payment of Medical allowance (without voucher) is pending from 2018 and with voucher medical claims pending from 01-04-2019. Onetime payment

paid for CGHS subscription is also pending in many circles.

(3) Issues of VRS retirees.

- (i)** Non- payment of balance 8% Ex-Gratia in violation of categorical assurance.
- (ii)** Settle the LPD issue based on the clarification of DOP&PW and dispute of caste certificate as per the directive issued by Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- (iii)** Immediate intervention to withdraw the notices under section 154 of the Income Tax Department for levying income tax for the leave earned during government service contrary to the procedure being followed hitherto.

(4) Immediate intervention to restore the DR freed from 01-01-2020 and Release of Two installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 as per the clarification issued by DPE vide OM No. W-02/0045/2020-DPE (WC) dated 08-01-2021 and DPE letter No.W-02/0045/2020-DPE (WC) dated 04-02-2021 addressed to Secretary, DoT.

We expect a positive response on these vital issues.

Denial of pension and pensionary benefits by delaying the process of disciplinary proceedings – case of Shri.G Mani, TT(Retd), BSNL, Erode, Tamil Nadu.

[AIBDPA/ DOT- VIG/TN/2021 dated 23rdFebruary, 2021 to Shri. L B Lal,Director (Vig-1), DoT]

We wish to bring to your kind notice an issue pending for a long time involving denial of pension and other retirement benefits.

Shri. G Mani, TT, BSNL, Erode retired on superannuation on 31-07-2018. He was served with a charge sheet under Rule-36 of BSNL CDA Rules, 2006, just before his retirement. The proceedings were completed in November, 2019. There have been flaws in the disciplinary proceedings and DoT was not consulted. BSNL has referred the case to DoT only after the retiree preferred a representation to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

The alleged offence committed by the retiree is that he has nominated his second wife for family pension in 2015, in violation of a court order stating that his first and estranged wife is still the legal wife. The retired official has pleaded that he was not able to



presume the consequential impact of the nomination as he is not well versed with the rules and belonging to the most backward section of the society.

The disciplinary authority has proposed a punishment of 10% cut in his pension and sent to DoT for approval. Considering the above facts, the proposed punishment is harsh.

Therefore, we request you to kindly review the case in a humanitarian ground so that no cut in his pension be approved. It is also requested to settle the issue as early as possible so that normal pension and retirement benefits are paid to the poor retiree.

**Implementation of the Interim
Order of Hon'ble High Court of
Kerala on payment of IDA
installments to BSNL pensioners.**

[AIBDPA/IDA-DPE/2021 dated 1stMarch, 2021 to
Shri Sasheel, Secretary, DPE]

Ref : - (1) DPE OM No.W/02/0039/2017-DPE(WC)
GL XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020
(2) DPE No.W-02/0045/2020-DPE(WC)
dated 08-01-2021
(3) DPE Letter No.W-02/0045-DPE(WC)
dated 04-02-2021 addressed to Secretary,
DoT.

We are thankful to the letter referred to (3) above addressed to the Secretary, DOT, forwarding our letter No.AIBDPA/IDA-MIN/2021 dated 09-01-2021, for necessary action.

Accordingly, we had written to the Secretary, DOT vide our letter No.AIBDPA/IDA-DOT/2021 dated 10-02-2021 along with the copy of your letter for causing necessary action for disbursement of two installments of IDA due from 01-10-2020 (5.5%) and 01-01-2021(6.1%) to BSNL pensioners.

Unfortunately, there has been no action on the part of DoT and therefore we had no other option other than seeking legal remedy. A writ petition was filed with the High Court of Kerala and an interim order has been issued on the admission stage itself on 26-02-2021. We hope that the Interim Order must have received by you by this time. However, we are enclosing herewith the copy of the Interim Order for ready reference.

Now, we request you to kindly issue the necessary guidelines for payment of the two installments of IDA to the BSNL pensioners which would enable DOT to make necessary arrangements for the disbursements

of IDA through the banks and post offices, as the case may be.

Awaiting your early favourable action and

**Approval of vigilance clearance
sought in case of VRS retirees by
CGMT, Tamil Nadu.**

[AIBDPA/BSNL-VIG/TN/2021 dated 26thFebruary,
2021 to Shri. H S Sohal,Chief Vigilance Officer,
BSNL]

We wish to bring to your kind notice an issue under reference pending with your office for necessary approval.

Pension (Regular), Ex-gratia and Leave Encashment of the two VRS retirees, Shri. P Nagakanni, TT, Erode HR No.199301591 and Shri. Doraipandian, AOS(T), Erode, HR No.198809879 were withheld due to non-clearance by the vigilance. Later, the cases were reviewed and vigilance clearance made for payment of Ex-Gratia and Leave Encashment by the Circle Vigilance.

CGMT, Tamil Nadu has sent it to your office for necessary approval on 15-01-2021. We would therefore request you to kindly cause necessary action for approval of the cases without further delay so that regular pension, Ex-Gratia and Leave Encashment to the retirees are paid to the VRS retirees.

**Implementation of the Interim
Order of Hon'ble High Court of
Kerala on payment of IDA
instalments to BSNL pensioners.**

[AIBDPA/IDA-DOT/2021 dated 1stMarch, 2021 to
Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT]

Ref: (1) DPE OM No.W/02/0039/2017-DPE(WC) GL
XVI/20 dated 19-11-2020
(2) DPE No.W-02/0045/2020-DPE(WC) dated
08-01-2021
(3) DPE Letter No.W-02/0045-DPE(WC) dated
04-02-2021 addressed to Secretary, DoT.
(4) This Association Letter No.AIBDPA/IDA-
DOT/2021 dated 10-02-2021.

A kind reference is invited to our letter referred to (4) above. We had attached copy of the letter referred to (3) above wherein DPE had given directive for necessary action by DoT for disbursement of IDA instalments to BSNL pensioners due from 01-10-2020 (5.5%) and 01-01-2021 (6.1%).



Unfortunately, there has been no response or positive action on your part. Therefore, we were compelled to seek legal remedy and a writ petition was filed with the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. Having heard both the parties, the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala was pleased to issue an interim order on 26-02-2021, at the admission stage itself. We hope that you must have received the Interim Order by this time. However, we are enclosing herewith a copy of the Interim Order for ready reference.

Now, we request you to kindly cause necessary action for the early disbursement of the IDA instalments to absorbed BSNL pensioners by instructing the banks and post offices to this effect.

**Implementation of the Interim
Order of Honourable High Court
of Kerala
on payment of IDA installments
to BSNL Pensioners.**

[AIBDPA/IDA-DOT/2021 dated 20thMarch, 2021 to
Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Telecom, DoT]

Ref: - **Our letter No.AIBDPA/ IDA-DOT/2021
dated 01-03-2021**

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

We had forwarded the Interim Order issued by the honourable High Court of Kerala on 26-02-2021 in the writ petition filed by us vide WP(C) No.5131 of 2021. The relevant portion of the interim order is given below for ready reference.

“In the meanwhile, by way of an interim order, it is clarified that the communication Ext.P2 is applicable to the Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of the CPSEs drawing 2017,2007,1997,1992& 1987 IDA pay scales. If the members of the petitioner union are not falling under this category, respondents shall not deny the benefit of Dearness Allowance to them.”

The Department of Public Enterprises has made it clear that, they are issuing orders for IDA payment only in respect of Executives and Non- Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs. This has been reiterated by the honourable Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises vide his letter dated 03-03-2021 to Sri.P.R.Natarajan M P (copy enclosed) as reproduced hereunder;

“The OM dated 19-11-2020 regarding Freezing of DA w e f 01-10-2020 to 30-06-2020 is applicable to Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs

and not to workmen or Pensioners of CPSEs. Further, DPE does not issue instructions regarding DA rates for Pensioners of CPSEs.

So, it is absolutely within the jurisdiction of Department of Telecommunications to initiate necessary action for payment of two IDA installments due from 01-10-2020 (5.5%) and 01-01-2021 (6.1%) to BSNL Pensioners.

We regret to point out that the issue is being delayed unnecessarily despite clarification of DPE and the Interim Order of the High Court of Kerala.

Sir, you are aware that Pension Revision due from 01-01-2017 is being denied to BSNL absorbed Pensioners without any justification whatsoever. To add insult to injury, medical benefits are not being paid to BSNL retirees for the last three years by the BSNL management, pushing the aged and ailing BSNL retirees to utter distress. We sincerely hope that you can imagine the plight of the BSNL Pensioners struggling to survive without pension revision, medical benefits and IDA in these hard period of pandemic.

Hence, the release of IDA installments is certain to give some relief to BSNL Pensioners. Therefore, we once again request you to do the needful in this regard without further delay.

**Extension of time limit of Revalidation of
BSNL MRS Card for BSNL retirees**

[AIBDPA/ BSNL MRS/ 2021 dated 06-04-2021 to
Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

Ref: **BSNL CO- SR/14(12)/9/2020 dated 28-09-2020.**

We wish to bring your kind attention on the subject under reference.

The time limit for revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for BSNL retirees was extended to 31-03-2021 or till further order vide Corporate office letter referred to above.

However, a good number of BSNL pensioners could not renew the MRS Card still due to worsening situation arising out of the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic in many states. In certain states like Maharashtra curfew has already been imposed and more states are to impose restrictions for movement/ travel. Hence, we request you to kindly cause necessary action to extend the time limit for revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for another six months or until improvement of the pandemic situation.



DOT / Govt. Orders

CORPORATE OFFICE

Admin Cell, Bharat Sanchar Bhavan
Janpath, New Delhi-110001
Tel: 23710286, Fax: 23711544



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

No: BSNLCO-ADMN/12(12)/4/2021-ADMN

Dated: 26-03-2021

To
All Head of Circles,
All Head of BSNL Units,
BSNL.

Sub: Clarification regarding eligibility of the family pensioners who are beneficiaries of BSNLMRS to migrate to CGHS and reimbursement of one time CGHS subscription fee paid by the BSNL employee to the CGHS authority.

In reference to the above captioned subject representations are being received from various employees Unions/ Associations, BSNL circles, retired employees regarding clarification on migration to CGHS by BSNL family pensioners (Dependents of the deceased retired BSNL employee) who are availing BSNLMRS facility and reimbursement of the life time subscription to CGHS as one-time payment.

2. Vide BSNLCO letter NO: BSNL/Admn.I/14-15/09 (Pt) dated 02.04.2014 (Copy enclosed), the decision of extension of CGHS facilities to retired BSNL employees who are in receipts of Central Civil Pension/Pro-rata Pension was conveyed.
3. Vide BSNLCO letter No: BSNL/Admn.I/14-15/09 (Pt) dated 29.07.2016 (Copy enclosed) , Approval of the Management Committee of BSNL was conveyed for reimbursement of one time CGHS subscription fee, paid by the BSNL employee to the CGHS authority. This was applicable to only those BSNL employees who surrender BSNLMRS facility and opt for CGHS facility.
Further, it was also decided by the MC that the retired BSNL employees and their dependents are not eligible to opt BSNLMRS facility in future, once they migrate to CGHS facility.
4. Vide BSNL CO letter No: BSNL/Admn.I/14-15/09 (Pt) dated:22.11.2018 (Copy enclosed) it has been clarified that the order dated 29.07.2016 regarding reimbursement of one time CGHS subscription fees are effective only from the prospective date.
5. Vide BSNL CO letter No: dated: 24.09.2004 & 15.01.2021 (Copy enclosed), Clarification on eligibility of Spouse and dependents of deceased BSNL employees were issued.
6. In continuation and context of above subject, the matter is examined and following is clarified:-

The family pensioners (Dependents of the deceased retired BSNL employees) who get the CGHS facility by surrendering BSNLMRS card/facility are also allowed for one time reimbursement of CGHS subscription fee paid to CGHS authority for migrating to the CGHS facility.

This has the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl.: As above

26.03.2021
DGM(Admin)
BSNL CO, New Delhi

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



भारतसरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
संचारमंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
दूरसंचारविभाग / DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
20- अशोकरोड, संचारभवन/20, ASHOKA ROAD, SANCHAR BHAWAN
नईदिल्ली-110001/ NEW DELHI-110001

No. 6-24/TA-I/PG Portal/Vol.2/3438

Dated: 9/02/2021

To,

General Secretary,
All India BSNL DoT Pensioners Association,
Dada Ghosh Bhawan, 2151/1,
New Patel Nagar,
New Delhi – 110008

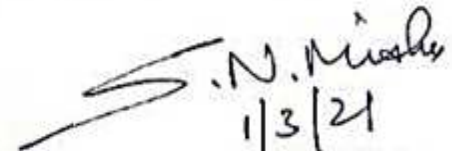
Sub: Change in PPO in r/o BSNL VRS-2019 retirees – reg.
Ref: CPGRAMS Grievance No. DOPPWE/2021/04265 dated 06.02.2021.

Kindly refer to your Grievance under reference, vide which changes in PPO by replacing the existing “BSNL VRS-2019” with “CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972” or amendment of the pension rules by incorporating BSNL VRS-2019 in r/o BSNL VRS-2019 retirees was requested.

The Grievance has been examined and it is to state that scheme under which Voluntary Retirement has been accepted by the Cabinet is called “BSNL Voluntary retirement scheme 2019”. Unique benefits like deferred retirement gratuity with interest and deferred commutation have also been approved by the Cabinet, which do not have any precedent in CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. Accordingly, to identify and to ensure discharge of the unique benefits, “BSNL Voluntary retirement scheme 2019” has been clearly mentioned. Any generic reference of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 may adversely affect the unique benefits.

Further, it is to reiterate that mentioning of BSNL Voluntary retirement scheme 2019 would not result in taking away any due retirement benefits as per existing rules provided for, from the pensioners on a later date.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.


1/3/21

(S. N. Mishra)
Director (A/cs-I)
E-Mail: dir.dfu-dot@gov.in

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

No. BSNLCO-ADMN/11(15)/2/2020-ADMN

Dated: 08.04.2021

Office Order

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

Ref:- This office letter No. BSNLCO-SR/14(12)/9/2020 dated 28.09.2020.

This office has issued letter regarding Extension of Revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for BSNL Retired employees till 31.03.2021 vide this office letter dated 28.09.2020. Requests have been received from Union/Association to further extend the revalidation of BSNL MRS Card for BSNL Retired employees on Pan India basis, in view of current COVID-19 situation.

In this regard, it has been decided with the approval of competent authority to extend the validity of BSNL MRS Card of BSNL Retired employees up to 30.09.2021 or till further order. All Circles are requested to take necessary action and extend the validity up to 30.09.2021 or till further order.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.


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

Copy (Through Intranet) to:-

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

Regd. & Corporate Office. : Bharat Sanchar Bhavan, H.C. Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110001
Corporate Identity Number(CIN): U74899DL2000GOI107739
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Hearty Congratulations- The Dharna on 16.03.2021 was massive and historical.

Thousands of pensioners participated throughout the country braving all odds including COVID-19 pandemic situation. Yes, comrades, the second phase of our agitational programme, the mass dharna on 16-03-2021 turned to be a resounding success all over the country. All India Postal and RMS Pensioners Association (AIPRPA) extended solidarity. In some circles BSNLEU & BSNL CCWF members also participated. CHQ expresses thanks to these organisations for the support. The pensioners have sent a strong warning to the arrogant Modi government and BSNL Management against the denial of pension revision to BSNL pensioners, medical benefits, DR and IDA and issues of VRS retirees. It is also a great victory that two issues, payment of 8% ex-gratia and attempts to levy income tax for leave encashment of the leave earned in government service, are settled.

Call Attention Day observed enthusiastically throughout the country.

The CEC decision to launch a two-phased agitational programme demanding pension revision, clearance of medical benefits, settlement of the issues of VRS retirees, restoration of frozen DR to DoT pensioners and release of two IDA installments to BSNL pensioners has been responded positively. The first phase of Call Attention Day on 26-02-2021 has been held by sending emails to the Minister of Communications, Secretary, DoT and CMD, BSNL by all the units and most of the units also conducted demonstrations. CHQ heartily congratulates all the comrades who have made it a historic success.

Protest Day on 01-02-2021 observed successfully.

The protest day on 01-02-2021, called by NCCPA and endorsed by AIBDPA has been observed by almost all circles with good participation in the demonstrations. The 14-point charter of demands of the pensioners, including Pension Revision, Non-payment of medical benefits, freezing of DR and IDA, for the protest action certainly have impressed and enthused the pensioners.

In some circles like Tamil Nadu, Assam, the program was organised jointly with other constituents of NCCPA/JAC. CHQ heartily congratulates the leaders who took the initiative to organise the agitation in their respective circles. CHQ also congratulates and salutes the pensioners who participated in the programme of action enthusiastically and made it a grand success.

NCCPA got registered under Indian Trade Union Act, 1926.

It is a matter of happiness that National Co-ordination Committee of Pensioners' Association (NCCPA) could be registered under Indian Trade Union Act, 1926. The continuous efforts of Coms. KKN Kutty, Secretary General and K Ragavendran, Deputy Secretary General ably assisted by Com. M L Gupta, President, Punjab National Bank Pensioners Association and S K Sharma, General Secretary, CGPA, Jaipur have at last yielded the desired result. AIBDPA heartily congratulates all these leaders for this enthralling achievement. No doubt, this will help NCCPA a long way in taking up the issues of the pensioners effectively with the appropriate authorities for early settlement.

IDA reduced by 1.1% from 01-04-2021.

As per the Consumer Price Index released by Labour Bureau of India on 31-03-2021, IDA from 01-04-2021 will be 170.4%. It means a reduction of 1.1%. (171.5% on 01-01-2021 minus 1.1% = 170.4%). However, Department of Telecommunications has not taken any decision for the payment of IDA due from 01-10-2020 and 01-01-2021 despite continuing efforts by AIBDPA based on the clarification issued by DPE that freezing of IDA is applicable only to Executives and Non-Unionised Supervisors of CPSEs and the favourable order of Kerala High Court.

My Life, Struggles.

The autobiography of Com. V A N Namboodiri has been released on 22-03-2021 at Bangalore. The publisher of the book is Karnataka Circle Branch of BSNLEU. The book with 288 pages is priced @ Rs.200. Those who want to purchase the book may kindly contact Com. H V Sudharshan, Circle Secretary. (Mobile No.94480 88887) ■

Obituary

Com.M.Krishnan.



Com.M.Krishnan (66), former Secretary General, NFPE and Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers has passed away. He was admitted in the PRS Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram on 22.02.2021, having tested positive for Covid-19 . His condition became critical on 28-02-2021 and was shifted to the Medical College hospital very late in the night; but could not be saved. He breathed his last at early morning on 01-03-2021. Com. M.Krishnan was a great leader and held several positions in the trade union movement. He belonged to Kasaragode in Kerala and started his union activities as Divisional Secretary, P3 union of NFPTE and became the Convener, Local Co-Ordination Committee of P& T Unions. He rose to lime light very soon with his capabilities in leading the organisation in many struggles and oratory skills. Then he was elected as Circle Secretary of P3 and Convenor, Kerala Circle Coordination Committee. Finally elevated to the post of General Secretary, P3 and Secretary General NFPE. He also took up the responsibility of Secretary General of Confederation and led several struggles during this period. His contributions to the Pensioners movement are also noteworthy. The unexpected and shocking passing away of Com.Krishnan is a great loss to the entire Trade Union and progressive movement in the country. AIBDPA dips it's banner in respect of the departed beloved leader, Com.Krishnan and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and Comrades. Red Salute Comrade M.Krishnan.!

Com.S C Shrivastava.



Com. S C Shrivastava, veteran leader and Circle President, AIBDPA, Madhya Pradesh has passed away on 12-01-2021. He had heart ailment problems and was in the hospital some two years ago; but recovered and has been active in Association activities. However, recently he was affected with corona virus along with almost all of his family members and was admitted in a Bhopal hospital a few days ago. He was then tested negative three days back but his condition became critical on 12-01-2021 and breathed his last in the night. Com.Shrivastavji was simple, gentle and always friendly which groomed him to such a great leader. He has taken up numerous responsibilities in the P&T Trade Union movement; Telegraph Class III Union, BSNLEU and lastly AIBDPA. In AIBDPA he has contributed immensely and served as CHQ Vice President also. He was also associated with progressive movements in MP and has served as State Committee Member of the CPI(M) after retirement.

The passing away of Com.S C Shrivastava is a great loss. AIBDPA pays respectful homage to the departed leader and conveys heartfelt condolences to his family, comrades and friends.

Com.B P Petkar, founder Circle Secretary, Maharashtra.



Com.B P Petkar, founder Circle Secretary and presently Circle Patron, Maharashtra at has passed away at 11PM on 24-03-2021. He had earlier some heart related health problems and recently tested positive for Corona and was admitted in a Nagpur hospital. His condition became critical on 24th March and breathed his last in the night.

Com.B P Petkar was a sincere and dedicated leader who served the movement in several capacities, including District Secretary, AIBDPA, Nagpur, District Secretary, CGPA, Nagpur, General Secretary, Co-Ordination Committee of Pensioners organisations of Vidarbha, Nagpur etc. He was a regular participant in all the meetings and conferences. AIBDPA dips its banner in respect of the departed leader and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and colleagues.



Call Attention Day observed on 26.02.2021.



Dharna on 16.03.2021.

