



ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

[Registered No. S/68836/2010]

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AIBDPA/ DOT-VRS ST/MH/2022

4th May, 2022

To,

Shri V.L. Kantha Rao,
Additional Secretary,
Department of Telecommunications,
Sanchar Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 001

Sir,

Sub: - **Denial of Pension and Retirement benefits to VRS retirees of Maharashtra belonging to ST category even after endorsement of DOP&PW orders by DOT and BSNL- intervention requested- req.**

We wish to bring to your kind notice the issue under reference for urgent intervention and early redressal please.

About 300 VRS retirees of Maharashtra Circle belonging to ST category are being denied regular pension and other retirement benefits, illegally for the last 27 months, putting them to utter distress and miseries. The BSNL management had taken an adamant stand against these VRS retirees that unless and until they revalidate their caste certificate, they will not be given pension and other retirement benefits.

This Association has taken up the issue with CMD BSNL, DoT, DOP&PW, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and finally with Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions.

As a result an explicit order was issued by DOP&PW dated 30-11-2021 which clearly stated " The CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 or instructions/ guidelines issued by this Department, however, do not provide for withholding of the retirement benefits under any other circumstances, including on account of pending verification of the caste status of the employees."

The order further states; " Unless departmental or other judicial proceedings are pending against a retiring employee, the pensionary/ retirement benefits of the retiring employee should not be withheld or delayed on the ground of pendency of verification of caste certificate."

The above order was endorsed by DoT and lately by BSNL on 25-04-2022. But our Circle Branch of Maharashtra has complained that still the order is not being implemented by the BSNL Circle administration and is reported to be seeking clarification from BSNL Corporate office and DoT. Sir, it is nothing but to delay the issue further. The affected pensioners have naturally become disappointed and restive and may be compelled to resort to any extreme steps.

Therefore, we fervently request your kind intervention for early settlement of the long pending issue and extending justice to the affected VRS retirees.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

K G Jayaraj

General Secretary