

Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Associations.

JFBMPA/ MOC,Secy-T /4/ 23 Dated 27th March, 23.

To,

1. *Respected Shri. Ashwini Vaishnavi Ji, Hon'ble MOC*
2. *Respected Shri. K. Rajaraman Ji, Secretary DoT.*

Sub: Evolving a foolproof mechanism for future pension revision of absorbed BSNL/ MTNL Pensioners - proposal to include in the Terms of Reference of PRCs necessarily be incorporated in the Cabinet Note for pension revision from 01-01-2017

The Joint Forum of eight number of BSNL MTNL Pensioners Associations are thankful to your good selves for earnest efforts to settle the long pending issue of pension revision of BSNL/ MTNL absorbed retirees from 01-01-2017. We understand that the processing of issue has progressed to the crucial stage of determining the fitment factor and preparation of Cabinet Note.

As you are aware, the pension revision of BSNL/ MTNL Pensioners wef 01-01-2007 was delayed for more than four years. And worse, this time, the pension revision has already been delayed by 75 months. Several thousand pensioners have left this world without getting the benefits of pension revision. It is absolutely necessary to ensure a permanent solution to avoid repetition of such horrific episodes.

BSNL was formed on 01-10-2000 by taking over the Central Government Departments of Telecom Services and Telecom Operations. The employees working in these two Departments were enmasse transferred to the new entity, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and absorbed later. The government had given a solemn assurance of better prospects to the employees and pension payment from the consolidated fund of the Government. Accordingly necessary amendment was also made in the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 in the form of Rule 37A. Thereafter BSNL absorbed employees are being paid salary and pension for the combined service on IDA pay scales. Pension Revision was also granted with 30% fitment, the maximum recommended by the 2nd PRC with effect from 01-01-2007. Initially, there was a formula of 60: 40 for payment of pension and pensionary benefits by the government and BSNL. This was annulled by the Cabinet in 2016 and therefore the entire liability of payment of

pension and pensionary benefits to the absorbed BSNL retirees lies with the Central Government.

MTNL was formed on 01-04-1986 incorporating the telecom services of the two metropolitan cities of Delhi and Mumbai. The employees were given the option to draw pro-rata pension for the government service and pension from MTNL for the services in MTNL. Later, the pension fund formulated by MTNL having failed, the MTNL employees were also included to the provisions of Rule 37A of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. (Rule 37A has been incorporated in the new CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021).

Thus BSNL/ MTNL Pensioners are the only section among the CPSEs, getting their pension from the consolidated fund of Government of India by virtue of Rule.37A of CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972. Hence there can't be any problem to include their pension revision in the terms of reference of future PRC.

In this connection, it is worth mentioning that during the pension revision wef 01-01-2007, a suggestion to this effect was made in the file in 2011 by the then Secretary- DoT. Unfortunately, there was no initiative from DoT in this regard during constitution of the 3rd PRC, despite repeated requests made by most of the Pensioners Associations.

In view of the above, we fervently request you Sir, to kindly consider our most justified suggestion that the Cabinet Note should necessarily be incorporated for including the Pension Revision of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners in the Terms of Reference of PRCs.

With kind regards,

Sincerely Yours



(K G Jayaraj)

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