

SANCHAR NIGAM EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION (INDIA)/BSNL

MTNL EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

Ref- SNEA/MEA/DPE/2015/1

Dated 30/12/15

To

Shri Ameisingh Luikham
Secretary, DPE, Govt of India
CGO, New Delhi.

Subject: Inclusion of pension revision of DOT officials absorbed in BSNL/MTNL in the terms of reference of next wage revision committee which we have been assured shall be constituted very soon by the Govt. since pension of employees absorbed in BSNL/MTNL from DOT is regulated under the provisions of 1972 CCS pension Rules, identical to the provisions of Central Govt. Employees. – Immediate personal intervention solicited since finalization of the terms of reference of wage committee is understood to be in the conclusive stages. Delay will lead to serious injustice to retired/retiring employees of BSNL/MTNL.

Respected Sir

Pension and pension revision of DOT employees having taken absorption in BSNL/MTNL is to be regulated in terms of the provisions stipulated in 1972 CCS pension Rules. This decision is taken by the Union Cabinet in respect of BSNL employees in the year 2000 and in respect of MTNL employees in the year 2014. Whereas Pension to BSNL/MTNL employees is being paid by the Govt. in terms of the said provision, unfortunately pension revision is not getting regulated the way it is getting regulated with regard to the Central Govt. Employees. The reason for this is that 2nd PRC did not specify any mechanism for pension revision in respect of BSNL employees (MTNL was not eligible that time) since pension revision for BSNL employees was not included in the terms of reference of 2nd PRC whereas pension revision was part of the terms of reference of 6th CPC in respect of Central Govt. Employees. Thereafter it was a herculean task for the BSNL management/DOT to get pension revision for BSNL employees approved from the Cabinet and it took more than three years to get concurrence of the Cabinet.

Now that MTNL staff is already getting pension under the provisions of the said rules, it is also eligible for pension revision in terms of the said provisions. There is now complete parity between BSNL and MTNL employees in so far as pension and pension revision are concerned. **In the context of the said facts, it is high and appropriate time that pension revision of BSNL/MTNL employees is included in the terms of reference of 3rd PRC so that 3rd PRC defines an appropriate mechanism for pension revision for retired/retiring BSNL/MTNL employees in the same manner in which 7th CPC has recommended pension revision for Central Govt. Employees.** Needless to mention total parity has to prevail between Central Govt. Employees and DOT employees absorbed in BSNL/MTNL in so far as pension and pension revision is concerned. This is the crux of the Cabinet decision taken at the time of Corporation of DOT and consequent absorption of DOT staff in BSNL/MTNL. **Negation of this crucial fact which formed basis of absorption in BSNL/MTNL would undoubtedly mean breach of the decision of the Union Cabinet.**

In fact, nearly five years before when DOT sent a note to the Cabinet seeking its concurrence for pension revision of retired BSNL employees, when obviously 2nd PRC did not specify any mechanism for pension

revision since it was not in its terms of reference, Cabinet, while approving the pension revision, had clearly suggested that next time when the wage revision committee for CPSUs is constituted by the Govt., the administrative ministry(DOT) as well as nodal ministry(DPE) must ensure that pension revision of BSNL and now MTNL is included in the terms of reference of the next committee i.e 3rd PRC. **We are completely surprised as to how and why timely action was not taken to include this important issue in the terms of reference of the 3rd PRC which we have been assured shall be constituted very soon.**

We were also categorically assured by the concerned officers in DOT, time and again, that an appropriate and timely reference in this regard would be sent to DPE for getting this issue included in the terms of reference of next wage revision committee. We are greatly astonished to learn that so far nothing has been received by DPE from DOT in this regard. This is a very serious lapse on the part of the concerned officers in DOT dealing with the issue since it will lead to immeasurable sufferings that retired personnel of BSNL/MTNL will have to undergo once 3rd PRC does not come out with a mechanism of pension revision in case it is not included in the terms of reference of 3rd PRC.

Considering the significance of the issue and the very fact that retired BSNL/MTNL employees are qualified in every respect for pension revision in the same manner in which Central Govt. Employees are, in terms of the provisions already decided by the Union Cabinet, we solicit your kind personal intervention to get this aberration correction by getting pension revision included in the terms of reference of the next wage revision committee. Also keeping in view the fact that finalization of terms of reference by the Govt. of likely to be constituted wage committee are learnt to be in advanced stage of finalization, it is further requested that this issue be treated with the kind of seriousness and urgency that it deserves for very obvious reasons. Any further delay will definitely lead to very serious situation wherein retired employees of BSNL/MTNL will be subject to intense sufferings.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely


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Copy to

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5. Shri Rakesh Garg, Secretary, DOT
6. Ms Annie Moraes, Member (Finance), DOT
7. Shri N K Yadav, Member (Services), DOT
8. Shri N K Yadav, CMD, MTNL
9. Shri Anupam Shrivastav, CMD, BSNL