

ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

No: UA/2019/89

21.05.2019

To

The Secretary (Telecom),
Department of Telecommunications,
Ministry of Communications,
Sanchar Bhavan, 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110 001.

Sub: Replying DoP&PW queries on Pension revision -- Very positive and sympathetic stand taken by DoP&PW to settle the Pension Revision for the pre-2017 BSNL Pensioners. The negative attitude of the concerned officers in DoT in replying to the queries made by DoP&PW delaying Pension revision:

Ref: 1. Assurance given by the Hon Minister and Secretary, DoT in the meetings held on 02.12.2018 and 03.12.2018 that Govt decided to delink the pension revision of BSNL pensioners from the pay revision.
2. AUAB letter No: UA/2019/68 dated 31.01.2019
3. DoP&PW letter No: 40/02/2019—P&PW(D)/40504 dated at New Delhi 08.03.2019 to DDG(Estt), DoT.

Respected Madam,

On the formation of BSNL, the employees working in DoT were absorbed in BSNL w.e.f. 01.10.2000 with the assurance of payment of pension by the Government of India. Accordingly Rule-37A was incorporated in CCS Pension Rules, 1972 to ensure payment of pension on the combined service rendered in DoT and BSNL, on IDA scales. In accordance with the above provisions, DoT revised the pension of pre-2007 pensioners/family pensioners of BSNL on 15.03.2011. Since no rule was framed for Pension revision for the BSNL Pensioners, DoT implemented Pension revision with the approval of Union Cabinet with 30% fitment, the fitment allowed by the DPE for CPSUs for 2nd Pay revision. Uniform 30% fitment recommended by 2nd PRC extended for the BSNL Pensioners for Executive and Non Executive categories. This has certainly become a clear precedence for Pension revision for the BSNL Pensioners.

On 03.08.2017, the DPE issued guidelines for 3rd Pay revision with 15% fitment. The Pension Revision of Govt. pensioners retired from BSNL cannot be linked with the pay revision of the serving employees due to the reasons mentioned in AUAB letter dated 31.01.2019.

It is already assured and announced by Hon MoSC and Secretary, DoT in the meetings held on 02.12.2018 and 03.12.2018 that Govt. decided to delink the pension revision of pre-2017 BSNL pensioners from the pay revision of BSNL employees. However DoT letter to DoP&PW does not reflect this decision and lack recommendation or proposal of DoT for delinking pension revision from pay revision. Without a proposal from DoT, DoP&PW is unlikely to give any opinion in this regard. As per DoP&PW, the methodology is to be worked out and suggested by DoT.

DoP&PW vide the ID Note of even no. dated 14.01.2019 to DoT has sought clarification from DoT on its proposal for Pension Revision for pre-2017 BSNL Pensioners. However, no reply is sent by the DoT so far. Again DoP&PW has sent a reminder on the subject on 08.03.2019, vide letter cited under reference 3 above, in which it had sought clarifications/proposals from DoT. **In the letter from DoP&PW to DDG(Estt), DoT dated 08.03.2019, it is stated that:**

2. *This Department has made the following observations on the proposal of DoT for revision of pension of the combined service absorbee pensioners of BSNL/MTNL.*

(i) *DoT has not clearly brought out as to what would be the formula for revision of pension on pre-2017 absorbee pensioners and what would be financial implications on revision of pension as per that formula.*

(ii) It has been stated by DoT that pay of the serving employees has not been revised in implementation of recommendations of 3rd PRC, since these entities had not fulfilled the pre-conditions for grant of the facility to these serving employees. This means that serving employees of BSNL/MTNL continue to be on the same pay which they were getting before 01.01.2017. In that case the existing Govt employees would also be getting pension based on their unrevised 2nd PRC pay scale/pay. In case pension of the past pensioners is revised, their revised pension would become higher than pension to be fixed on retirement of the existing employees. This will create an anomalous situation in BSNL/MTNL as the past pensioners would be getting more pension than the freshly retired pensioners. DoT, therefore, needs to bring about as to how they propose to resolve this anomaly.

3. ----- However, the requisite clarifications/proposal has not been received from DoT so far.

AUAB vide letter dated 31.01.2019 under ref. 2 above has given concrete suggestions for Pension revision, without creating any anomaly and the methodology which can be recommended to DoP&PW for giving its approval on the subject. To avoid an anomaly between serving and the retired employees prior to 01.01.2017, the following method suggested by AUAB.

a) The pension/family pension of the pre-2017 BSNL pensioners will be revised w.e.f 01.01.2017 as follows by adding together:

- i) The existing pension /family pension, including commuted portion of pension, if any
- ii) IDA as on 31.12.2016.
- iii) Fitment of 15%.

b) For the serving employees, fitment will be calculated as 15% w.e.f. 01.01.2017 itself and pension contribution will be paid accordingly by BSNL. However, payment of pay, allowances and perks will be made by BSNL depending upon its affordability. In the month of retirement, the payment will be made based on full 15% fitment.

Anomaly is already created between the Central Govt. pensioners got the Pension revision w.e.f 01.01.2016 and the BSNL Pensioners whose Pension revision is due from 01.01.2017. Now, some of the officers occupying crucial positions in DoT and not took absorption in BSNL are taking BSNL's financial condition as an opportunity to settle the scores and even to reduce the Pension of the BSNL Pensioners. This attitude of the Administrative Ministry is seen only in DoT, even though there are number of Administrative Ministries dealing with several CPSUs. **Once again your intervention is solicited to send a positive proposal to DoP&PW for Pension Revision with 15% fitment for the pre-2017 BSNL Pensioners.**

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,



Com. Chandeshwar Singh
Chairman, AUAB.



Com. P. Abhimanyu
Convenor, AUAB.

Copy to: (1) The PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, New Delhi – 110001
(2) The Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, New Delhi - 110001
(3) The Member (Services), Telecom Commission, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi – 110001
(4) The Member (Fin), Telecom Commission, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi – 110001
(5) The Additional Secretary(T), DoT, New Delhi – 110001
(6) The Chairman & Managing Director, BSNL, New Delhi – 110001
(7) The Director (HR), BSNL Board, New Delhi – 110001
(8) The GM (SR), BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi – 110001