

# **RETIRED TELECOM OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

(Reg.No. GBBSD/MAHA.STATE. MUMBAI-1687/2008: )

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DATED 25<sup>TH</sup> SEP'2016

## **KEY NOTE ADDRESS**

**DELIVERED BY SHRI. BADRI R. PATHAK GENERAL SECRETARY**  
**AT OPEN HOUSE SESSION OF EIGHTH AGB OF RTOWA ON 25/09/2016**

Respected Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, Office bearers of RTOWA Delhi, Chairman and Convenor of United Forum Mumbai, Office bearers of all Associations and Unions of MTNL Mumbai, our President and esteemed Members...

On behalf of Executive Committee and on my own behalf I welcome you all to this Open Session. We, the members of RTOWA, feel immensely honoured to have the distinguished guests in this Open House Session. I feel privileged to present this key note address.

RTOWA Mumbai was registered on 22/08/2008 with the main objective of safeguarding the interests of combined service pensioners of MTNL Mumbai. The Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members are contributing their best to fulfil this objective. Life membership has steadily grown to more than 770 as on date.

In this Key Note some important issues that cause anxiety to the MTNL pensioners are presented.

### **PAYMENT OF ARREARS OF PENSION:-**

DoT issued orders vide letter no.42-04/2012-Pen(T) dated 10/08/2015 for payment of Arrears of pension on account of revision of pension effective from 01/01/2007. The arrears are payable for a period of 69 months from 01/01/2007 to 30/09/2012. So far, arrears have been paid to about 1550 pensioners and about 5000 pensioners including family pensioners are yet to be paid. All these pensioners are mostly in the age group of 70 to 80 and they are frustrated as they don't know when they will get arrears. They are losing heavy amount of interest on every passing day. Therefore RTOWA is of the firm view that **a reasonable time frame should be fixed and all out efforts should be taken by MTNL and CCA to pay the arrears within that said date.**

### **PPOs FOR PENSIONERS AND FAMILY PENSIONERS ..PRE 01/04/2014 RETIREES:-**

Out of about 11500 pensioners and family pensioners retired prior to 01/04/2014, about 8000 pensioners are yet to get Government PPO. The main requirement to get CGHS card is PPO and all these 8000 pensioners/family pensioners will be deprived off CGHS facility without the PPO. Therefore **the work of preparation of new PPO needs to be given a push for completion within a reasonable time frame.**

### **REVISION OF PAY / PENSION WITH 78.2% OF IDA ON 01/01/2007:-**

Neutralising 100% of the price rise, the Government formula prescribes 78.2% IDA in the revision of Pay/Pension on 01/01/2007. All PSUs have applied the formula with 78.2% IDA except MTNL which has applied 68.8% IDA. PSUs have no discretion to tamper with the formula for revision. MTNL employees and pensioners are deprived off the 100% neutralisation of price rise to the extent of 9.4% IDA since the revision of Pay/Pension on 01/01/2007. Therefore RTOWA along with other Unions and Associations is on agitation path demanding 78.2% IDA.

## **REVISION OF PENSION AS PER ORDERS ON 7<sup>TH</sup> PAY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS :-**

According to Para 2.1 of P &PW OM No. F.No.38/37/2016-P&PW (A)(ii) dated. 04/08/2016, the said OM is applicable to “all pensioners / family pensioners who were drawing pension / family pension before 01/01/2016 under the Central Civil Services (Pension) 1972.....” Further Para 7 (a) and (b) of the said OM reads “Where the Government Servants on permanent absorption in Public Sector undertakings /Autonomous bodies continue to draw pension separately from the Government, the pension / family pension of such absorbees will be updated as per these orders.”

The MTNL Pensioners are Government employees absorbed in MTNL and their pension is governed by Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules’72 and paid by the Government from the ‘Consolidated fund’ of India. Therefore RTOWA is of the view that the Pension of MTNL Combined Service pensioners should be updated according to the aforesaid OM.

## **CGHS AND CONTINUATION OF EXISTING MEDICAL SCHEME :-**

MTNL Pensioners are settled in different parts of our Country. RTOWA prefers CGHS despite its inadequate coverage within Mumbai as well as in rest of India. However for the benefit of those who are not covered by CGHS and those who may not opt for CGHS, the present medical scheme should also continue. The one time subscription to CGHS is heavy. RTOWA is of the view that the subscription should be fully paid by MTNL as MTNL will be benefited forever by getting rid of the expenses on annual premium to insurance company as well as the OPD reimbursement expenditure.

## **PENSION LIABILITY RELATING TO PERIOD PRIOR TO 01/04/2014 :-**

There are some cases where the liability arises now for payment of retirement benefits to those retired prior to 01/04/2014 but the settlement of court cases, disciplinary cases or settlement of pay anomaly cases have been done after 01/04/2014. There are about 40 such cases where Commutation and Gratuity have not been paid and many cases where pension arrears not paid on settlement of pay anomaly. The reason for non payment is that “who should (MTNL or DoT), bear this liability” has not yet been decided. These pensioners are losing interest amount on every passing day of delay. RTOWA holds the view that Government is bound to pay all the retirement benefits with effect from 01/10/2000 as per Rule 37A, regardless of any internal arrangement between MTNL and DoT. All these pending cases need to be settled early.

## **LICENSE FEE FOR RETENTION OF BSNL QUARTERS AFTER RETIREMENT :-**

BSNL MH Circle levies License Fee plus **an amount equal to last drawn HRA** for retention of its quarters by the MTNL pensioners. Inclusion of last drawn HRA amount in the License Fee recoverable from Pensioners is in contravention of Government Rules. BSNL refuses to issue NOC to pensioners if HRA amount is not paid and a portion of Gratuity amount has been withheld by the CCA. RTOWA holds the view that MTNL Mumbai and MTNL Corporate Office should take up this issue with BSNL authorities to insist to levy license fee as per Government rules and issue NOC to all the pending cases.

## **TIME BOUND PROMOTION FOR VRS OPTEES WITH EFFECT FROM 01/10/2004**

The first time bound promotion was given with retrospective effect from 01/10/2004. Accordingly all those retired after 01/10/2004, except VRS retirees, were given promotion retrospectively with effect from 01/10/2004. The exclusion of VRS retirees is not at all justified and they also should be given the benefit of time bound promotion with effect from 01/10/2004.

## **MERGER OF BSNL AND MTNL :-**

The benefits of merger are obvious. The merged entity will have more resources for optimum use. Synergy in operations will benefit the subscribers. Employees and Pensioners will be benefited as the merged entity will have uniform pay scales and perks to all. Above all the merged entity can take on the private operators in competition. Therefore RTOWA holds the view that the merger should take place at the earliest.

## **CONCLUSION :-**

RTOWA Mumbai is grateful to Pr.CCA MH Circle, ED MTNL Mumbai, GM (F), DGM (IR), DGM (FMS) of MTNL Mumbai, all officers of pension cell of Pr.CCA, all officers of pension cell of MTNL Mumbai, and officers of FMS Mumbai for their compassion and sincerity in dealing with pensioners issues and for sparing their time whenever we met them for discussions.

**This Key Note is a brief of RTOWA's views on some important issues and our members hope that these issues will receive due consideration of all concerned authorities.**

RTOWA thanks all the distinguished guests for their patient hearing and sparing their valuable time to grace this Open House Session.

With Season's greetings,

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BADRI R. PATHAK  
General Secretary

25/09/2016