

RETIRED TELECOM OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION MUMBAI

(Regn.No. F-37187/Mumbai, Bombay Public Trust Act'1950)

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12TH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

29TH APRIL' 2022

VENUE

AMBEDKAR BHAVAN HALL, NEAR NAIGAON TELE. EXCHANGE,
DADAR EAST

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RETIRED TELECOM OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Reg No: F-37187 (Mumbai) 2008

Corr. Add: A-402, Gayatri Avenue, 90' Road, Thakur Complex, Kandivali (E), Mumbai-400101

E-mail ID: rtowamumbai@gmail.com website:- rtowambi.in

K.Jawahar
President
9969596106

B.R.Pathak
General Secretary
9301489729

J.S.Yadav
Jt Gen Secretary
9869041090

P.D.Pradhan
Treasurer
9969805533

Dated 7th April'2022

NOTICE

It is hereby notified under Rule 7 of the bye laws that the twelfth Annual General Body Meeting of RTOWA Mumbai will be held at 10.00 am on 29th Apr'2022 at Ambedkar Bhawan Hall, Near Naigaon Telephone Exchange, Gokuldham Pasta Rd., Dadar East, Mumbai-40014.

AGENDA

(Subject to approval of the House)

1. Welcome Address by President.
2. Homage to the departed members by observing silence.
3. Approval of minutes of last AGB.
4. Adoption of Activity Report for the period from 11/10/2019 to 28/04/2022
4. Adoption of Audited Accounts for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21.
5. Unaudited Receipts and Payments Account for the year 2021-22 for information.
6. Discussions on the following issues: -
 - I. 73.8 % / 78.2 % IDA Neutralisation
 - II. Pension Revision wef 01/01/2017
 - III. Medical facilities including FMA
7. Resolutions.
8. Appointment of Statutory Auditor for the year 2021-22
9. Any other item with the permission of the chair.
10. Appointment of Election officer.
11. **Election of Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members for next tenure.**
12. Vote of thanks.

J.S. YADAV
Jt. General Secretary
RTOWA Mumbai.

BADRI.R. PATHAK
General Secretary
RTOWA Mumbai

All the participants are requested to wear mask and adhere to Covid protocols. Non-members (retired executives of MTNL Mumbai) are also requested to participate In the meeting by payment of Life time subscription at the venue.

LUNCH BREAK AT 1 pm FOLLOWED BY OPEN SESSION AT 2 pm.

OPEN SESSION

Of 12th AGB of RTOWA Mumbai

Venue :- Ambedkar Bhavan Hall Dadar East

Date and Time :- 2 pm at 29th Apr'2022

PROGRAMME

1. Welcome Address by President
2. Honouring the Guests with bouquet
3. Keynote Address by General Secretary
4. Speech by Hon'ble Guests
5. Speech by Chief Guest
6. Vote of thanks.



J.S. YADAV
Jt. General Secretary
RTOWA Mumbai.



BADRI.R. PATHAK
General Secretary
RTOWA Mumbai

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OBJECTS OF RTOWA MUMBAI

- To secure the pensionary benefits of MTNL Pensioners
- To ensure Revision of pension and family pension whenever becomes due.
- To ensure adequate medical benefits to MTNL Pensioners.
- To continuously strive to improve the benefits under CGHS
- To address the grievances of the pensioners by taking them up to the appropriate authorities.
- To promote fraternity among Pensioners Associations

RETIRED TELECOM OFFICERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION MUMBAI
OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
DURING THE PERIOD FROM 12/10/2019 TO 29/04/2022

POST	NAME	MOBILE NUMBER
	S/Shri	
President	K. Jawahar	99695 06106
Vice President	S.V. Gajam	99690 00404
Vice President	H.S. Upadhyay	98694 35995
General Secretary	Badri R. Pathak	93014 89729
Joint General Secretary	J.S. Yadav	98690 41090
Assistant General Secretary	K.P. Ravindra Kumar	98692 51414
Treasurer	P.D. Pradhan	98690 81953
Assistant Treasurer	N.V. Mahajan	98694 31615
Organising Secretary	D.P.S. Yadav	98690 16988
Organising Secretary	G.N. Haragabal	98690 55668
	up to 04/03/2020	
Organising Secretary	Virendra Singh	98692 71414
Organising Secretary	P.Subramanian	98692 25700
Executive Committee Member	N.Chandrasekaran	98692 36969
Executive Committee Member	V.K. Bhatia	98692 34040
Executive Committee Member	A.D. Virani	77571 16060
Executive Committee Member	C.U.Gade	98690 51200
Executive Committee Member	B.V. Bargaje	98694 83600
Executive Committee Member	Dr. J.P. Baghel	98690 78485
Executive Committee Member	B.V. Mohite	98690 66366
Executive Committee Member	M.A. Ansari	98694 11700
Executive Committee Member	M.K.Kulkarni	98694 08181
Executive Committee Member	G.V.R. Moorthy	98694 24530
Executive Committee Member	Mohan Singh	98690 58686
Internal Auditor	A.A. Ardhalkar	98690 78000

**Message from Sh.S.S. NANDA General Secretary RTOWA Delhi
and Convenor of Co-Ordination Committee of RTOWA Delhi and Mumbai :**

Regn.:No. S-57799/2007

website : www.rtowa.tripod.com

Retired Telecom Officers' Welfare Association (Regd.)

Central Headquarters, New Delhi

Regd. Off. : C-20, Mukhram Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi - 110018
Phone : 25992929, Mob. : 9868389595, 9968721515 email : rtowa@yahoo.co.in



M K BAGCHI
President

S S NANDA
General Secretary

P S BHAYANA
Treasurer

Com. K. Jawahar, President / Com. Badri Pathak, General Secretary

Dear Comrades,

It is precious moment for me to get the Invitation from our sister organization RTOWA Mumbai to attend their *AGBM & Open Session to be held on 29/04/2022. Comrades, I am extremely sorry that due to my health problems, personally I would not be able to attend this function. But on behalf of RTOWA Delhi, we pray for a meaningful and successful AGBM & Open Session of your Association. All the pensioner's issues would be well taken care and decision for future strategy would be framed to take up pending pensioner's issues like Pension Revision, 5 % IDA Neutralisation, Settlement of Pay Anomaly on last Basic Pay drawn at the time of Retirement etc. at appropriate levels jointly in close co-ordination with the Co-ordination Committee of RTOWA Delhi & RTOWA Mumbai.

In the past also, at the platform of Co-ordination Committee, we have taken all the pensioner's related issues, written even number of letters, rigorously pursued and had regular meetings at all the concerned level officers of MTNL Corporate Office, DOT, DOP & PW and met Political Dignitaries for resolving pensioner's issues.

For Pension Revision issue, we had to take unanimous combined decision with Retired Associations & Unions of MTNL & BSNL to file a legal case in PB CAT, New Delhi to seek the justice. In future also, this close co-ordination of RTOWA Delhi & RTOWA Mumbai will continue to fight the pensioner's related issues.

With kind regards.

(S. S. NANDA)
General Secretary

RTOWA Delhi Zindabad; RTOWA Mumbai Zindabad;
Co-Ordination Committee Zindabad

CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
OF RTOWA DELHI AND RTOWA MUMBAI

POST	NAME S/Shri	MOBILE NO.	RTOWA
CHAIRMAN	K. Jawahar	99695 96106	Mumbai
VICE CHAIRMAN	M.K. Bagchi	98685 34060	Delhi
VICE CHAIRMAN	S.V. Gajam	99690 00404	Mumbai
CONVENOR	S.S. Nanda	99687 21515	Delhi
ASST. CONVENOR	Badri.R.Pathak	98692 07950	Mumbai
ASST.CONVENOR	Sheelkumar	90134 95545	Delhi
TREASURER	P.S.Bhayana	98682 56811	Delhi
ASST. TREASURER	P.D. Pradhan	98690 81953	Mumbai
ORG.SECRETARY	H.S.Upadhyay	98694 35995	Mumbai
ORG.SECRETARY	R.K. Mudgal	98685 01222	Delhi
ORG.SECRETARY	J.S.Yadav	98690 41090	Mumbai
ORG.SECRETARY	S.K.Dabral	90134 67101	Delhi
ORG.SECRETARY	K.P.Ravindrakumar	98692 51414	Mumbai
ORG.SECRETARY	S.K.Bhatia	99682 93370	Delhi

MINUTES OF LAST AGB HELD ON 11TH OCT'2019

The AGB was held at Mitradham CHS Community Hall, Behind SBI Parel, Mumbai. At 10.30 am, the meeting was adjourned to 11 am for want of quorum. The adjourned meeting started at 11 am,. Near about 250 members participated. Shri. K.Jawahar welcomed the members. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of departed members during the last one year. Shri. K.P.Ravindrakumar read out the minutes of the last AGB and the house approved it.

Shri Badri R. Pathak GS presented the Annual report for the period from 15/11/2018 to 10/10/2019 and it was adopted by the House after clarifications given to members regarding pursuit of pending issues. Shri. P.D. Pradhan Treasurer presented the Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March'2019 and read out the Auditor's report. The House adopted the Accounts unanimously. Shri. P.D.Pradhan proposed to appoint S.R.Patil &Co Chartered Accountant as the Statutory Auditor for the year 2019-2020 and the House approved it. Shri. H.S. Upadhyay Vice President moved resolutions regarding further pursuit of Revision of Pension and Neutralisation of 73.8% IDA those pensioners retired prior to 01/01/2018 and the resolutions were passed unanimously.

Shri. S.S. Nanda GS RTOWA Delhi and Convenor Co-Ordination Committee spoke about 73.8% IDA Neutralisation, Sh.R.K.Mudgal AGS RTOWA Delhi spoke about FMA and Sh.J.S. Yadav spoke about Pension Revision. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Sh.Virendra Singh Org.Secretary.

Dated 29th Apr'2022

ACTIVITY REPORT
For the period from 11th Oct' 2019 TO 28th Apr' 2022
Presented at 12th AGB Meeting held at Ambedkar Bhavan hall, Dadar East

Dear Members,

Good morning, everyone. This is a happy occasion for all of us to gather for our General Body meeting after the pandemic. I happily welcome all of you. Heartful Welcome to the Co-ordination Committee members from RTOWA Delhi. Our last AGB meeting was held on 11th Oct' 2019. Since the last AGB, our Association continues to be very much active, even during the long period of lock down. The activities are summarised hereunder.

Office Bearers and EC members: - The office bearers and EC members who held the charge during the period of this report is given separately. Our General Secretary B.R. Pathak could not spare his time on personal grounds (affected by Covid-19 and was stuck up at native place) since Feb'2020 and hence Sh. J.S. Yadav Jt. G.S is carrying on the functions since then.

Last AGB and Open Session: There were about 250 participants. Annual reports and audited accounts were adopted. Resolutions on future course were passed. S.R. Patil & Co, Chartered Accountants were appointed as Statutory Auditors for the year 2019-2020. The status of the issues such as neutralization of 73.8% IDA, Pension Revision, VRS, medical facilities etc. was deliberated.

In the open session Shri. H.S.Jakhar GM (Admn) was the Chief Guest. Sh. Ramraje Mali Dy.CCA, Sh. A.K.Kaushik Convenor of United Forum Apex Body, Sh.S.S.Nanda Convenor Co-Ordination Committee, Sh.S.M. Sawant Convenor United Forum Mumbai, Sh. S.S. Jagtap CHQ President TEAM, Sh. P.K. Kulkarni President TEAM Mumbai. Sh. R.G. Chaube GS TEAM Mumbai, Sh.Ramasundaram GS TPWA, Sh.R.K. Dubey CAO (CSMS) and Sh.M.Dhuri AO (PDA) graced the occasion as Hon'ble Guests. The Association leaders spoke about the issues and the dignitaries from MTNL and CCA office spoke about the initiatives taken by them to help the pensioners. Chief guest spoke about the financial crisis faced by MTNL.

Condolences :- RTOWA Mumbai mourns the demise of two veteran leaders of MTNL Mumbai during this period. Both the leaders suddenly passed away, Shri. G.N. Haragabal our organising secretary and ex President of TEAM Mumbai passed away on 04/03/2020 and Shri.S.M.Sawant G.S. MPWA and Convenor of United Forum passed away on 17/05/21. Both have left a void in the Associations. Sh.S.M.Sawant handled many cases in the labour court, CAT and Bombay high court. He was one of the Applicants on behalf of MPWA in our pension revision case at PCAT Delhi. On 05/07/2021, a condolence meeting was arranged by Sh.Bhai Jagtap, Chairman of Apex body of United Forum and office bearers of all the constituent Unions and Associations recalled the valuable contributions of Sh.S.M. Sawant.

Statutory Auditor for the year 2019-20 and for the year 2020-21 :- As our Auditor Sh. S.R. Patil passed away during Oct'2020, the Executive Committee appointed Mr. Bibikar & Associates, as our Statutory Auditors for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 in the virtual EC meeting on 26/01/2021.

Membership: Record number of life members is added during the period of this report. The number of life members increased from 1253 on 30/09/2019 to 1870 on 21/04/2022, an increase of 617 members during this period. About 70% of the executives retired on VRS joined our Association.

Executive Committee Meetings: -The physical EC meetings were held on 24/12/2019, 09/01/2020, 04/03/2020 and on 24/03/2022. The online meetings through WhatsApp/Zoom were held on 05/04/2020, 30/04/2020, 22/07/2020, 29/08/2020, 26/01/2021, 26/03/2021, 29/01/2022 and on 23/04/22. The members participated in the discussions and offered valuable suggestions. All decisions on important issues are taken after discussions in the EC.

Website and WhatsApp groups :- Web site 'rtowambi.in' is our digital Notice Board and the thirteen whatsapp groups are our two way communication net work. These are continuously maintained and updated by Sh.P.Subramanian Org.Secretary and Sh.K.P. Ravindrakumar AGS., with the technical support of Sh.Tiwari, SM. Our hearty thanks to all of them for their sincere and dedicated services.

Accounts, Auditing and Filing Returns :-Our Accounts are audited by a Chartered Accountant as per the requirements of Bombay Trust Act'1950 as well as required by Income Tax Act and Rules. The Tax returns and administrative returns are filed regularly. By filing income tax returns, every year we get refund of the TDS recovered from the interest earned on Fixed Deposits during the previous year. Shri. P.D.Pradhan Treasurer deserves appreciation for compliance of these statutory requirements.

Co-Ordination Committee of RTOWA Mumbai and Delhi: -The co-ordination committee consists of seven office bearers each from RTOWA Delhi and RTOWA Mumbai. Physical meeting was held on 11/10/2019. Discussions among the members take place continuously in the exclusive WhatsApp group of Co-Ordination Committee members. During this period Co-Ordination Committee took up many important issues and addressed the authorities.

Committee of BSNL and MTNL (CBMPA) :

It was formed on 21/11/2018. The constituent Associations are AI BSNL PWA, DoT-BSNL PA Kerala, MSEA Delhi, RTOWA Mumbai, RTOWA Delhi, and MPWA Mumbai. The objective is to pursue Pension Revision of BSNL and MTNL pensioners together and to exchange information. During the period of this report CBMPA met on 10/12/2019 at Delhi and decided to file court case for Pension Revision.

United Forum of MTNL: -

The common issues of employees and pensioners are taken up by the United Forum Mumbai as well as the Apex body of United Forum Delhi and Mumbai. Our Association is the major constituent of United Forum and Sh.J.S. Yadav our Jt.G.S is the convenor of United Forum Mumbai.

On 16/10/2019, a huge demonstration led by Shri. A.K. Kaushik Convenor of Apex Body of United Forum was held at Telephone House Mumbai demanding Salary payment on time, 3rd PRC, 78.2% IDA neutralisation and revival of MTNL.

The office bearers of constituent Unions & Associations led by Sh.J.S. Yadav met CMD on 06/01/2020, 16/03/2020, 20/04/2020 and discussed the following issues:- 1. 'Relaxation of Training conditions for pensioners already retired but pension is held up, for VRS opted, and for employees who are due to get next time bound promotion', 2. To provide funds for payment of GPF, Leave Encashment, reimbursement of OPD bills, reimbursement of 50% CGHS subscription etc to Superannuation and VRS pensioners. A letter was also given to CMD in every meeting. They met ED on 28/01/2020 requesting to extend the date of submission of enrolment form for CGHS till 10/02/2020 so that the VRS pensioners can continue to avail the medical facility without any break.

18/08/2020:- Requested CMD via Email and letter requesting to take appropriate steps to get higher amount of EPF pension for the pro rata pensioners for their MTNL service.

20/11/2020 :- Requested Hon'ble Minister of DPE via email requesting to declare IDA rates effective from 01/10/2020 as the freezing orders do not cover the pensioners of PSEs.

30/11/2020:- Shri. Bhai Jagtap Chairman of Apex body of UForum issued Press Statement against the anti-labour policy of govt. in freezing the further instalments of CDA and IDA.

Revival of MTNL :-

The Central Cabinet took a decision on 23/10/2019 for merger of MTNL and BSNL as a part of revival package that included VRS. Unfortunately this decision is not yet implemented. On 06/04/22, the Minister of State for Communications announced in Rajya Sabha that the merger of BSNL and MTNL is deferred. The pensioners are saddened to see the degradation of MTNL, the service organisation they built during their career.

Donations to Covid Relief Funds: -On 06/04/2020, our Executive Committee gave a call to members to donate liberally to Covid Relief funds of Prime Minister and Chief Minister through our Association. Our members donated liberally. The donations from the members was Rs.14,38,272 and Association contributed Rs.1,14,728/. Out of the total amount of Rs. 15,53,000 a sum of Rs.7,51,000 each was remitted to PM Cares Fund and to Maharashtra CM Relief Fund and Rs. 51000 was donated to the Covid Medical Relief Centre of 'Poinsur Pawan Dham Borivili'. Congratulations to all the donor members.

Meeting to Welcome VRS Pensioners:- The welcome get together of VRS pensioners was hosted on 29/02/2020 at Ambedkar Bhavan Hall Dadar East. About 200 VRS pensioners participated. Shri.V.Srisankar ED was the Chief Guest. Shri. N.Dhaktode GM(Fin) and Shri. N. Balasubramaniam DGM (A/c) were Hon'ble guests. Sh.P.K. Kulkarni CS TEAM, Sh.Ramasundaram GS TPWA and Sh. J.J. Mathias president MEA also graced the event. ED said that opting for VRS is a right decision and assured that all their claims will be settled as early as possible. Associations congratulated ED, GM(Fin) and CCA for arranging payment of provisional pension on 29/02/2022 itself.

Meeting with Shri. Gopal Shetty M.P. :- We met Sh.Gopal Shetty M.P. on 27/08/2020 and requested his help to resolve 78.2% IDA neutralisation issue and to get funds from DoT for payment of ex-gratia, GPF,CPF, MTNL Gratuity, Leave encashment, extension of retention period of Qrs., and implementation of enhanced pension to pro rata pensioners for their MTNL service. Hon'ble MP heard us with patience. He wrote two letters dated 28/08/2020

to MOC, one letter for 73.8% IDA neutralisation and another letter requesting to settle all the other issues. MOC responded vide his letter dated 29/12/2020 that funds will be made available soon and all the dues of pensioners will be settled.

Pension Revision :-

On 09/12/2019, Leaders of AI BSNL PWA and Sh.M.K. Bagchi President RTOWA Delhi discussed the issue with Hon'ble MoC. MoC openly told them that "pension revision is not possible without pay revision". On 10/12/2019 in the meeting of CBMPA at Delhi an unanimous decision was taken to get legal opinion and to file case in the appropriate court. 12/12/2019:- MoC replied to Qn.No.265 in Rajya Sabha that "Pension Revision is linked to Pay revision and pay revision is not possible due to poor financial condition of BSNL. Hence Pension Revision is not agreed on date" Pensioners are pushed to the wall.

19/12/2019 :- We met Member (Fin) and sought his opinion about Pension Revision. He said "the issue of pension revision will be addressed after revival plans of BSNL/MTNL are firmly put on course".

29/08/2020:-In the EC meeting held today, a resolution was passed to file case in Principal CAT Delhi jointly with RTOWA Delhi and MPWA.

18/03/2021:- Reply to Qn.no.2570 in Rajya Sabha:- "pension revision is intrinsically linked with pay revision to avoid anomaly between present retirees and future retirees. So pension revision will have to wait till the 3rd PRC is implemented.

Requested Secretary (T) via email and letter dated 08/11/2021 and reminders dated 17/01/22 and 02/02/22 to delink pension revision from pay revision and to send concrete proposals to DoP&PW for pension revision in response to it's letter dated 08/03/2019. Co-Ordination Committee and United Forum also sent a similar letter via email.

25/02/22:- Shri. R.K. Mudgal AGS RTOWA Delhi and Shri. G.L. Jogi GS SNPWA gave a convincing presentation on Pension Revision before Secretary (T) in virtual meeting mode. Secretary (T) assured them that the issue will be revisited shortly in totality.

25/03/22 :- **Leaders of AI BSNL PWA and Sh. M.K. Bagchi had a meeting with Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw ji, Hon'ble MoC** and handed over a detailed letter and discussed the issue of Pension Revision. MoC was positive and assured to help. Then they discussed the issue with Sh.K. Rajaraman Secretary (T) and requested him to review the decision of linking pension revision with pay revision. He assured to revisit the whole issue.

Pension Revision Court Case :-

09/09/2020:- OA was filed jointly by RTOWA Delhi, RTOWA Mumbai and MPWA at Principal CAT Delhi vide No.1271/2020 for revision of MTNL Pension. Another OA was filed jointly by AI BSNL WA and SNPWA at the same court vide No.1272/2020 for revision of BSNL pension. Both these cases are handled by the same lawyer. Both these cases were admitted on 17/09/2020. After filing counter reply by DoT, then rejoinder by us, and after many adjournments, both the cases are now posted for final hearing on 19/05/2022.

Thanks to Sh.M.K.Bagchi ji President RTOWA Delhi and Convenor Co-Ordination Committee who has tirelessly worked to compile all the documents and to apprise the lawyer. He continues to be the co-ordinator with our lawyer in handling the case.

Besides the above two cases AI BSNL PWA has filed a case in the same court for revision of BSNL Pension. Another lawyer is handling this case. This case has been adjourned to 26/07/2022.

73.8% IDA Neutralisation:-

Sh. S.S.Nanda and Sh. R.K. Mudgal met the officers at DoT and MTNL Corporate office many a times in pursuit of this issue. The chronology of pursuits other than the pursuits of RTOWA Delhi, is briefed hereunder.

Our Association sent a letter dated 13/11/2019 to CMD requesting him to send replies to the queries raised by DoT early. On 19/11/2019, MTNL CO sent reply to DoT.

19/12/2019:- We discussed the issue with Member (Fin), DDG (Estt) Dir(Estt), DDG (Accts) and Dir(Accts) at DOT. All the officers said that the issue is clear and orders will be issued after vetting by Finance.

28/02/2020 :- DoT called for further report from MTNL regarding calculations of liability.

16/03/2020:- We met CMD at Mumbai and requested to expedite the reply to DoT.

19/06/2020:- CMD cleared the file and the report was sent to DoT.

24/06/2020:- Shri. Bhai Jagtap MLC and Chairman ApexBody of United Forum requested Hon'ble MoC to settle the issue early.

27/08/2020:- Shri..Gopal Shetty M.P., addressed a letter to MoC to settle this issue.

16/10/2020:- Our President discussed over phone with DDG (Estt). He said "the file is moving with favourable comments in the right direction"

The file was cleared by Member (Fin) and sent to Secretary (T) on 09/11/2020 and since then it is tossed between Secretary (T) and subordinate officers.

Co-Ordination Committee requested intervention of MOC to settle the issue via letter and email dated 10/12/2020, 18/06/2021 and sent reminders to Secretary (T) via letters and emails dated 02/01/2021, 15/02/2021, 27/05/2021, 18/06/21.

Resolution was passed in the EC meeting held on 26/03/2021 conveying the frustration of pensioners and requesting PM to intervene. This resolution was sent to PMO as Public Grievance on 07/04/2021 by the Association. PMO forwarded it DoT and DoT replied on PG portal on 21/06/2021 that "This is a policy matter and not an individual grievance. However it is stated that the case is under process".

In the welcoming message to Hon'ble MoC on his taking over the Ministry of Communications & IT , we requested him to look into this issue vide email and letter dated 09th July'2021.

On 26/09/21, a protest action of lodging grievance en-masse on PMO PG portal was launched by Co-ordination Committee. More than 1000 pensioners from Mumbai and Delhi lodged grievance on PMO PG portal. A standard reply was received 'This is a policy matter and not an individual grievance.'

In the welcoming message via email and letter dated 01/10/2021 to Shri. K. Rajaraman on his taking over the charge of Secretary (T), we requested him to cause to issue orders in the 73.8% IDA neutralisation issue. Thereafter DoT sent the file to Dept of Expenditure for approval.

On 04/01/2022, Department of Expenditure returned the case to DoT raising queries. On 13/01/2022, DoT called for replies from MTNL to the observations of DoE, latest by 20/01/2022. Co-Ordination Committee requested CMD to send reply to DOT early via email and letter dated 24/01/22 and 22/04/22. It is pursued continuously by Shri. R.K.Mudgal AGS RTOWA Delhi. But the replies have not yet gone to DoT despite the continuous pursuits.

Issues of VRS'19 Pensioners -

The VRS took place on 31/01/2020 but we started insisting MTNL and CCA to settle their dues and to sanction provisional pension in Dec'2019 itself. The following issues of VRS pensioners were pursued.:-

1. Settlement of ex-gratia, GPF, leave encashment, MTNL gratuity and CPF of VRS pensioners, Welfare Fund, GSLI money from LIC, Interest for delay in payment of GPF, refund of 50% contribution of CGHS.
2. Relaxation of Conditions of Training. The relaxation mentioned in the terms and conditions for VRS does not cover all cases.
3. To upload details of all payments of retirement benefits and ex-gratia on pensioner portal.
4. Sanction of provisional pension and regular pension.
5. Preparation and delivery of PPOs
6. Enrolment in CGHS/ CGHIS so that the medical facility will be continuous.
7. Permission for retention of Qrs.
8. Refund of undue recoveries from ex-gratia and leave encashment.
9. Updating DOT period leave and rectified Form 16.
10. Procedures for application to commutation of pension.
11. Form 16 for salary of the pensioners retired during the year on portal.

Issues of Superannuation pensioners :-

1. Relaxation of Conditions of Training for pensioners whose pension was withheld and for employees whose next financial upgradation was pending.
2. Reimbursement of OPD bills, Telephone bills, 50% CGHS Contribution, refund of security deposit on Qrs etc.,
3. Re-fixing of pension of those retired between 01/01/2018 to 31/07/2018 giving the effect of 73.8% IDA neutralisation.
4. Arrears of Pay and leave encashment of pensioners retired between 01/01/2018 to 31/07/2018
5. Wrong stepping down of pay of pensioners retired from STSA cadre.
6. Facility to lodge grievance on pensioner portal.
7. Extension of date for submission of renewal/fresh application to join CGHIS
8. Option to switch over to CGHS anytime during the year with MTNL subsidy.
9. Settlement of floater medical bills of CGHIS

In pursuit of the aforesaid issues we had discussions with CMD on 18/12/2019 at Delhi, and on 06/01/2020 at Mumbai. Pursued the issues through letters via email on 15/04/20, 14/05/20, and on 31/12/20,

We pursued these issues with GM(HR)/Dir(HR) Corporate Office thro' letters via email dated 21/05/20, 04/06/20, 15/07/20, and 27/07/20.

In pursuit of the aforesaid issues we had discussions with ED on 12/02/20, 06/11/2020 and 18/02/21. Pursued thro' letters via email on 21/03/20, 06/06/20, 10/07/20, 26/06/20, 08/09/20, 10/09/21 and 12/10/21

In pursuit of the aforesaid issues we had discussions with either GM(Fin) or DGM(Pen) /DGM(A/c) or both on 29/11/2019, 12/02/20, 25/02/20, and on 28/02/21. Pursued by letters via email on 26/03/20, 01/04/20, 02/04/20, 08/05/20, 04/06/20, 06/06/20, 26/06/20, 06/07/20, 03/08/20, 19/08/20, 02/09/20, 06/09/20, 17/09/20, 24/09/20, 15/10/20, 30/10/20, 19/12/20, 19/01/21, 29/01/21, 02/06/21, 23/08/21, and 29/08/21

In pursuit of the aforesaid issues we discussed with either GM(A) or DGM(A) / DGM(IR) / DGM(Legal) or both on 23/12/2019, 12/02/20 and on 25/02/20. Pursued by letters via email on 26/03/20, 05/05/20, 08/05/20, 21/05/20, 04/06/20, 15/07/20, 27/07/20, 14/08/20, 19/08/20, 12/10/20, 16/10/20, 30/10/20,

We had a meeting with CGM MH Circle on 14/01/2020 and requested him not to levy notional HRA in the L.Fee for the BSNL Qrs. retained by MTNL Pensioners including VRS pensioners. CGM was requested again over phone and through a letter email on 07/05/2020 and 31/12/2020.

On 15/05/20 we requested Hon'ble MoC by email letter dated 15/05/20 to arrange to release funds for payment of balance ex-gratia.

Co-Ordination Committee requested Secretary (T) on 26/10/2020 and Hon'ble MOC on 07/12/2020 to expedite payment of ex-gratia and help MTNL by providing funds for payment of GPF,CPF, MTNL Gratuity and leave encashment of Pensioners retired on VRS and Superannuation.

On 02/11/2020, Requested AO (Pen) of CCA office over phone to allow interest on Gratuity from the date of VRS till the date of payment on attaining superannuation as provided in the VRS terms. He agreed to pay the interest to all the pensioners whom it was not paid.

On 20/05/2021:- Requested GM(Fin) and CCA to accept application for commutation from the VRS pensioners directly to avoid delay in payment.

Apart from meetings and letters via email, the pursuits were made over phone also many times.

Refund of GSLIS (Group Savings Life Insurance Scheme) money from LIC to VRS and superannuation pensioners: -

On 17/08/2020, requested DGM(Pen) to pursue vigorously to get the Savings fund amount from LIC for all those who retired after June'19 including VRS Pensioners. This issue was raised in all the meetings and letters to GM(Fin) during 2020 and 2021.

The issue was discussed over phone and requests were made via email/letter to Branch Manager, Regional Manager, Executive Director of LIC on 13/10/20, 01/04/21, 14/04/21, 28/05/21, 03/06/21, 20/09/2021 and on 23/12/2021. Almost all the cases are settled now.

Interest for the period of delay in payment of GPF after retirement:-

As per GPF rules interest is payable on GPF Balance at the date of retirement if there is delay in payment for more than one month after retirement. The issue is pursued by the Association since 2019. Due to our pursuits CMD agreed to pay the interest vide letter dated 27/01/2020. Again due to our pursuits the interest amount payable to the pensioners retired after 2017 was worked out by Mumbai Finance and funds request for Rs.31.40 Cr was placed on Corporate office in Sep'21 .

Director (Fin) Corporate office has been requested to provide funds via email and letter dated 24/12/2021 and reminders dated 10/01/22 and 04/03/22

Medical Facilities :.

CGHS:- In response to MoH' letter dated 09/10/2019, our suggestions to improve the functions of CGHS was sent on 28/11/2019 to Ministry of Health. We met Additional Director CGHS Mumbai on 10/01/2020 and handed over the said letter of suggestions and discussed all the suggestions. On 16/03/2020 we met CMD and requested to allot space at Borivili for wellness centre.

On 05/01/2022, we requested CGHS Directorate via email and letter to extend the special sanction at least up to 31/03/2022 for reimbursement of medicines purchased locally based on the earlier prescriptions. On 24/03/2022, we had a meeting with Additional Director. The following issues were discussed.1. The Abnormal delay in settlement of MRCs. 2. Empanelling more multi-speciality hospitals. 4.New Wellness Centres at Thane, Kalyan, Borivili , Vashi etc. AD said the settlement of MRCs is improving, Qrly formal meeting with Associations will start soon, it is continuous process to empanel the hospitals and opening new wellness centres will be considered.

Option to switch over to CGHS with MTNL subsidy:

Requested ED over phone on 08/09/2020 and vide letter dated 07/09/2020 to take up this issue. Due to this pursuit this facility was extended up to 31/12/2020 to those retired from Dec'2019 to Aug'20. But the option was not extended to all the pensioners. We are continuously pursuing to extend this option open through out the year for all the pensioners who have not joined CGHS.

Fixed Medical Allowance

The issue is being pursued with CCA Mumbai to prescribe procedures to apply for Fixed Medical Allowance.

Extension of time limit for submission of Life Certificate: -Submission of life certificate by MTNL pensioners is staggered throughout the year based on their month of retirement. So, the orders of DoT are required for extension besides the general orders issued by Pension

Ministry regarding life certificate due in the month of Nov. Therefore Member (Fin) was requested from to time for extension. Requested Member (F) via email letter dated 05/05/20, 30/06/20, 14/07/20, 11/09/20, 05/10/20, 19/12/20, 04/05/21 for extensions in different spells. On many occasions Dir(A/c) of DoT was requested over phone too.

Average Emoluments of pensioners who retired within 10 months of from 01/10/2000:-

09/11/2021:- Co-ordination Committee requested DoT via email and letter to issue orders in this regard similar to the orders issued for BSNL pensioners since the issue is identical. DoT has called for some information in this regard from MTNL recently. The issue is being pursued.

Frozen Instalments of IDA due on 01/10/2020 and on 01/01/2021 :- Co-Ordination Committee requested Hon'ble Minister of DPE vide e-mail and letter dated 20/11/2020 to issue orders declaring the IDA rates effective from 01/10/2020 as the freezing orders do not cover the pensioners of PSUs. DPE forwarded this letter to DoT for necessary action on 04/02/2021. Pursuing the issue further Co-ordination Committee wrote a letter dated 21/03/2021 to DoT. Again Co-ordination Committee requested Minister of Finance & DPE vide it's email and letter dated 19/07/21 to cause to unfreeze the quarterly instalments of IDA due from 01/10/2021 to 01/07/2021 and to pay the released IDAs with arrears to the pensioners of BSNL and MTNL. Similar letter and email dated 20/07/2021 were sent by United Forum too.

Meetings with ED MTNL Mumbai:-

30/11/2019:- We met Shri. V.Srisankar ED and greeted him on his taking over the charge of ED and apprised him of our issues in brief.

On 24/01/2021, the office bearers of all the constituent unions and Associations led by Shri. J.S. Yadav met Shri.Srisankar ED on his transfer on promotion and conveyed their well wishes. They also greeted Shri. Deepak Mukherjee who has taken over as ED. We wished both the officers a successful stint in their new assignments.

We had a meeting with Shri. Deepak Mukherjee ED on 18/02/2021 and ED informed the following after discussions. 1. Funds to the extent of 6.25 Cr. is expected shortly and all the pending claims such as reimbursement of OPD bills, 50% subsidy on CGHS subscription, refund of Qrs security deposit etc will be paid. 2. Grievance cell will be established at Zonal level for redressal grievances of pensioners. 3. Leave encashment certificate will be issued at the request of the pensioner. 4. GSLI will be pursued vigorously with LIC.

On 02/09/2021, Shri.Bhai Jagtap chairman Apex body of United Forum and other office bearers met ED and requested to intervene to settle the long pending issues such as 1. Updating of DoT period leave (left over cases), Interest for the period of delay in payment of GPF, 3) Salary and leave encashment arrears due to neutralisation of 73.8% IDA to about 800 pensioners retired during Jan'2018 to July'18 , and 4) refund of undue recoveries from leave encashment or ex-gratia.

27/03/2022:- We had a scheduled meeting with ED in the presence of GM (Fin), GM(A) and DGM(A). The following issues were discussed. 1.Delay in settlement of CGHIS Floater bills. GM(A) assured to settle them. 2. Interest for delay in payment of GPF. GM(Fin) said a fresh

request for funds will be made to Corporate office. 3. Option to switch over to CGHS. GM(A) said letter will be written to CO. 4. Wrong stepping down of pay of six pensioners of STS cadre. It will be examined afresh. 5. Issue of Pensioner ID card. GM(A) said the issue will be examined further.

Pursuit of Pensioners' claims with GM (Fin) :-

After the lock down was relaxed, we had a scheduled meeting on 28/09/21. We gave a list of pensioners whose DoT period leave is not updated. It was agreed that actual leave at credit as per Service book will be updated by 15/10/21 and revised Form 16 will be issued by 31/10/21. All other claims of the pensioners will be settled on receipt of funds from CO.

Pursuit of issues with GM (A) :-

After the lock down was relaxed, we had a meeting on 14/10/2021. The following issues were discussed. 1. Pending regular promotions of some pensioners while in service 2. Qrs allotment policy 3. Grievance portal 4. Extension for enrolment to CGHS 5. Option to switch over to CGHS 6. Access to intranet by RTOWA 6. To open DLC counter at Borivili.

Pension Adalats:-

Thanks to CCA Mumbai for conducting Pension Adalats regularly from Nov'2020 onwards through Webex meet. It was held on 18/11/2020, 24/11/2020, 11/01/2021, 29/06/2021, 12/10/2021, 28/01/2022 and 23/03/2022. At least one office bearer is always present in the Adalat to highlight the important common grievances and suggestions.

In the Adalat did 12/10/21, we requested the following: 1. Ack. for Life certificate. 2. Procedure for Fixed medical Allowance 3. Pensioners' ID card. CCA assured to consider all these requests.

In the Adalat dated 23/03/22, we greeted Ms. Vandana Gupta Principal CCA who has taken over the charge recently. The following requests were made:-1. To fix up errors in the system of TDS, 2. To operationalise the Toll Free number. 3. To prescribe procedures to apply for FMA and 4. To dispense with the procedure of calling for report from MTNL for sanctioning second stage of family pension. CCA assured to look in to all these requests.

Issues taken up with CCA Mumbai:-

On 06/06/2020, requested to cause to pull up the work of preparation of PPOs before the target date fixed by DoT. Discussed and sent letter on 17/09/20 regarding payment of commutation to VRS pensioners.

18/05/2020:- Requested through letter via email to authorise the banks to draw dearness relief to all pro rata pensioners after their retirement on VRS and requested to defer the life certificate till the lock down is fully lifted.

15/07/2020:- Requested over phone as well as through a letter to upload the list of PPOs generated every month and Form 16/Income certificate for 2019-2020 on pensioner portal. Reminder requests in this regard were given on 17/07/2020, 04/08/2020 and on 14/08/2020 through letters and / or over phone.

21/10/2020:- Requested the following through a letter 1. To establish a system of registering complains on pensioner portal. 2. To assign WhatsApp number to lodge grievances 3. To assign specific email id to lodge grievances. 4. To open a single window for submission of documents etc.

09/11/2020:- Requested through letter via email to recognise the issue of excess TDS from pension despite intimation of savings details to AO PDA and requested to fix the bug if any in the system and to refund the excess recovered TDS.

31/05/21:-Requested the following through a letter via email -1) To conduct the postponed Adalat. 2) To Upload Form 16/Income certificate on pensioner portal. 3) to arrange to give prompt response to pensioners calls on the given contact numbers. 4) Acknowledgement of life certificates thro SMS. 5) To change the procedure for submission of Commutation form by VFS pensioners directly to CCA office. On 19/06/21, we greeted Sh.S.K. Mishra ji who had taken over the charge of Principal CCA.

Smt.V.G. Mishra CCA Mumbai stated in the Adalat held on 29/06/2021 that WhatsApp number will be assigned for lodging grievances by pensioners. 2) All the suggestions of RTOWA will be considered. 3) Pension Adalat will be held quarterly hereafter.

02/11/2021:- Requested via email and letter to upload a List of pensioners for whom the pension is not drawn with reasons therefor on pensioner portal every month.

01/03/2022:- We pointed out a system error in TDS recovery and requested via email and letter to refund the excess TDS. CCA agreed to it and refund was made.

Achievements:

The following pensioner friendly measures were taken by the authorities at our requests.

1. Procedure to enrol in CGHS without PPO was prescribed.
2. Supplementary bill for pension for Nov' 19, Sep'20, Feb'21, Nov'21 was drawn to those who submitted life certificate after the cut off date..
3. CMD agreed to pay interest for the delay in payment of GPF after retirement vide letter dated 27/01/2020 due to our pursuit. But funds not made provided so far.
4. The date of submission of enrolment form for CGHS was extended till 10/02/2020 so that the VRS pensioners can continue to avail the medical facility without any break.
5. Provisional pension payment started for almost all the VRS pensioners from the first month of retirement itself i.e., on 29/02/2020.
6. AD CGHS introduced procedure for online payment of CGHS subscription, considering our request vide email dated 17th Apr'20.
7. Due to our continuous pursuit, the mandatory training condition was waived in respect of 10 pensioners whose pension was withheld. Relaxation was also given to 19 executives whose financial upgradation was pending.
8. Due to our request the list of PPOs of VRS pensioners was uploaded on pensioner portal.
9. Form 16 and Income certificate for pension for the year ending 31/03/2020 and 31/03/2021 was uploaded on pensioner portal by CCA office. Similarly Form 16 for salary received for part of the year by the pensioners was uploaded by MTNL.

10. Pensioner wise details of all the payments made to VRS pensioners was uploaded on pensioner portal due to our continuous pursuit.
11. The orders of Pension ministry to extend the time limit for submission of life certificate was not made applicable for MTNL initially. Due to our pursuits DoT extended these orders for MTNL pensioners too.
12. MTNL allowed extension for retention of Qrs by the pensioners for a period of two years with terms and conditions.
13. Digital Jeevan Pramaan Counters were opened at five CSCs by MTNL.
14. List of pensioners who enrol in to CGHIS is continuously updated on pensioner portal.
15. Time limit for submission of OPD bills extended up to 31/03/2001.
16. WhatsApp helpline was opened by CCA as suggested by us.
17. Submission of Form for Commutation by VRS pensioners directly to CCA.
18. Staff no. of some pensioners are suffixed with area code and these pensioners are unable to access pensioner portal as the field length was less, the field length was increased to 9 characters at our request.
19. Online grievance lodging system introduced in pensioner portal by MTNL.
20. Last date for application to enrol in CGHIS was extended from time to time both in 2020 and in 2021.
21. Excess recovered TDS from the pension of Mar'22 refunded by CCA.
22. The pensioner portal has been made more informative and friendly with adequate information of Income Tax due, recovered, savings details, due date for submission of next life certificate etc.

Tasks Ahead: -

The following are the important tasks ahead of us in the coming days.

1. Pension Revision. We must exert more and more pressure.
2. Neutralisation of 73.8% IDA to pensioners retired prior to 01/01/2018.
3. Neutralisation of 78.2% IDA to all the pensioners and employees.
4. Continuous efforts to get better medical facilities from CGHS.
5. Option to switch over to CGHS at any time during the year with MTNL subsidy.
6. FMA application procedures.
7. Enhancement of insurance cover under CGHIS.
8. Enhancement of OPD reimbursement limit of CGHIS enrolled pensioners.
9. Entitlement to OPD bill reimbursement to the pensioners who are neither enrolled
10. Reversal of wrong stepping down of some pensioners of STSA cadre after retirement.

Appreciations:- We appreciate the following excellent performances by officers and staff of Admn., Accounts, BB, and IT wings of MTNL Mumbai and officers and staff of CCA Mumbai. All the pensioners are grateful for these helpful measures.

1. Settlement of the dues of the pensioners despite near zero attendance during pandemic.
2. Payment of pension without any interruption or delay during the period of lock down.
3. Depiction of details of all the payments made to VRS pensioners on portal.
4. Monthly Pension pay Slip on portal.

5. Arrangement for acceptance of CGHIS applications online.
6. Form 16 for pension as well as salary for part of the year of retirement on portal.
7. Designing a friendly and informative 'Pension pay slip' with details of tax recovery and the due date for submission of next life certificate.
8. Online grievance redressal system for grievances to be redressed by MTNL.
9. Toll free number and whatsapp number to lodge grievances with CCA office.
10. Regular holding of Pension Adalat.

We convey our special thanks to Shri. Deepak Mukerjee ED for the online grievance redressal system and Smt. V.G. Mishra for providing WhatsApp number to lodge grievances as well as for her helpful approach to redress the pensioners' grievances.

Appeal:-

RTOWA needs to be further strengthened in membership as well as in resources. After VRS, the receipts from life membership fees has dried up. So RTOWA will, now onwards, mainly depend upon the interest income from FDs and donations. As the interest rate is falling interest income also will be becoming less. So, the corpus fund needs to be strengthened with donations. Efforts should be made to enrol the non-members. So it is appealed to spread the message of RTOWA to enthuse the non-members for enrolment as members. And appeal is also made to members to liberally donate to strengthen the Corpus fund.

Conclusion :-

RTOWA is firmly committed to secure the interests of MTNL Pensioners. RTOWA Mumbai is grateful to all the Unions and Associations of MTNL and BSNL whoever is striving to secure and further the interests of pensioners. RTOWA Mumbai always stands firm for unity and co-ordination of all the Pensioners' Associations of MTNL and BSNL.

RTOWA Mumbai Zindabad;

Co-ordination Committee Zindabad:

For and behalf of
Executive Committee of RTOWA Mumbai

J.S. YADAV
Jt. General Secretary

BADRI.R. PATHAK
General Secretary

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KEYNOTE

**Presented at the Open Session of 12th AGB of RTOWA Mumbai
held at Ambedkar Bhavan hall Dadar East on 29/04/22**

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Good afternoon all. Warm welcome to Hon'ble guests, office bearers of RTOWA Delhi and all of you. It is immense pleasure for all of us to meet each other after more than two years of pandemic.

RTOWA Mumbai is registered in 2008 with the main object of safeguarding the interests of MTNL Pensioners. Since then it has grown steadily from year after year. On date, the life membership is near about 1900 retired executives of MTNL Mumbai. Democratic functioning, holding Executive Committee meetings frequently, holding General body meeting every year, Election of office bearers every two years etc., are the backbone of structure and functioning of our Association. The issues, as and when they arise, are taken up and pursued relentlessly till they are resolved. RTOWA will continue to function actively in safeguarding the interests of MTNL Pensioners. In this keynote, the main issues that are bothering the MTNL pensioners are outlined.

1. Pension Revision :- The revision has become due with effect from 01/01/2017 after 10 years of last revision. The DoT is of the view that pension revision is intrinsically linked to pay revision and pay revision could not be done as MTNL and BSNL do not meet the affordability condition as per 3rd PRC. Associations are of the view that pension revision and pay revision should not be linked up as the affordability condition is not applicable even remotely to pension revision. Being pushed to the wall, Associations filed cases in the Principal CAT Delhi. Now the court cases are in the final stage and judgment is expected within a few months.

Now, on change of incumbents at DoT and on easing of Corona environment, the Associations and individual groups have started pursuing the issue again exerting pressure on DoT to reconsider the issue. Requests are made to Hon'ble MoC through MPs. Due to these recent pursuits, It seems DoT is revisiting the issue holistically. Let us hope that the pensioners of MTNL / BSNL achieve Pension Revision, though still a long way to go.

2. Neutralisation of additional 5% IDA (73.8% IDA) in the pension of those retired prior to 01/01/2018.:- The pension of those retired prior to 01/01/2018 is based on the pay which is revised on 01/01/2007 with neutralisation of 68.8% IDA. The pension of those retired after 01/01/2018 is based on the pay which is revised on 01/01/2007 with neutralisation of 73.8% IDA. DoT has not denied the entitlement of the pensioners retired prior to 01/01/2018 to the additional neutralisation of 5% IDA. But the bureaucracy is confused about sharing of the liability and is shunting the file back and forth. There is no other valid reason for not issuing the orders. The delay of about four years is frustrating. Continuous pursuit is on. We are confident that, this issue will be settled soon.

KeyNote Contd.,

3. Neutralisation of 78.2% IDA :- The pay/pension of BSNL employees/pensioners as well as the pay of employees of all the other PSUs where 2nd PRC is implemented, are based on neutralisation of 78.2% IDA on 01/01/2007. But the pay and pension of MTNL employees

and pensioners (except those retired prior to 01/01/2018) are based on 73.8% IDA neutralisation on 01/01/2007. DoT has not agreed to 78.2% IDA neutralisation pushing the employees and pensioners of MTNL to the wall. Decision will be taken by the Associations at appropriate time to file a court case.

4. Interest for the period of delay in final payment of GPF after retirement :- It is unfortunate that MTNL is unable to pay interest for the period of delay in payment of GPF after retirement to all those retired after 2017 though CMD has already approved in principle for payment of interest. The issue is continuously pursued.

5. Medical Facilities :

I. CGHS :-

- a) Augmenting additional wellness centres, empaneling at-least one multi-speciality hospital in each locality, enhancement of CGHS rates for various treatments, speedy settlement of reimbursement claims etc., are pursued with CGHS authorities.
- b) The pensioners request that the 50% subsidy in the CGHS Life Subscription should be extended for joining CGHS anytime during the year. This issue is pursued with MTNL.

II. CGHIS :-The insurance cover needs to be enhanced as the present cover of Rs.1.5 lakhs was fixed about 15 years ago. OPD bills reimbursement is not allowed since last year to the Pensioners who are not a CGHIS member. This facility needs to be restored. These issues are pursued with MTNL.

III. Fixed Medical Allowance :-Implementation is pursued with CCA Mumbai.

6. Reimbursement of OPD bills, tele. Bills, 50% subsidy of CGHS contribution, Refund of security deposit of Qrs. retention, and any other claims of pensioners :-

There is delay in payment of all these claims. We understand the funds problem. But the claims should be checked regularly and funds requests need to be placed every fortnight. So there should be a system to monitor the date of receipt of claims and date of funds request. There should be a target time within which the claims should be disposed off. We request ED and GM (Fin) to take appropriate steps in this regard.

7. Appreciations and thanks :-

CCA's caring and helpful measures :-

Pension of VRS pensioners was sanctioned as quickly as possible and PPOs were also issued in record time. Adalat is conducted almost every quarter. Form 16 / Income certificate made available on portal. WhatsApp help line and specific emails are assigned to deal with grievances. Pension pay slip gives information about tax recoveries as well the due date of

next life certificate. Above all during lock down, risking their health, the staff and officers attended office and ensured that pension was drawn and paid on due dates. So we are grateful to CCA and officers / staff of CCA's office for their caring and helpful approach to pensioners' requirements.

Facilities adding comforts to Pensioners: -

MTNL provided facility to submit application for renewal of CGHIS thro portal. Details of all the payments to VRS pensioners are made available on portal. The pensioner portal serves as a digital notice board giving all the information needed by pensioners. Relaxation in Training condition, disposal of floater case medical claims, extension of date for renewal of CGHIS etc., indicate the helpful approach of ED and GM (A). Above all, the introduction of grievance redressal system in the pensioner portal is an excellent step helping the pensioners to lodge grievances at a single window. ED, GM (A), BB/IT wings and the officers and staff whoever has contributed to provide these facilities and continuously maintaining, deserve the appreciations of pensioners. We are grateful to them.

This keynote is a brief of RTOWA's views on some important issues.

Profound thanks to all the distinguished guests for sparing their valuable time to grace this open session.

With greetings,

General Secretary
RTOWA Mumbai

APPEAL

To Enrol as a Life Member of RTOWA Mumbai

Executives of MTNL Mumbai retired from any cadre is eligible to become a member of RTOWA Mumbai. Life membership subscription is Rs.1000/- only. Enrolment procedure is simple. The subscription is to be remitted to RTOWA' account through imps, NEFT, depositing cheque or cash directly to the account from any branch of Punjab National Bank.

Account Details: -

Name of Account: - 'Retired Telecom Officers' Welfare Assn., Mumbai'. Cheque should be drawn with full name of the Association. No abbreviation is allowed by the bank.

Bank :- Punjab National Bank; Branch-4; Roma Chambers Ulhasnagar

IFSC Code :-PUNB0335800: MICR Code :=400024038

Account No:- SB A/c 1144 0001 0506 3641;

After remittance Application Form to be filled up on our website rtowambi.in. Click "Membership" tab and select 'Online enrolment'; Form appears on screen. Fill up and click 'submit.'

Please inform the payment details to Treasurer thro whatsapp.

Pension Revision

(By Shri. D. Gopalakrishnan, CHQ VP, AI BSNL PWA)

Our Association raised the demand of pension revision on the basis of 7th CPC fitment factor as soon as Dr Manmohan Singh, then Prime Minister announced appointment of 7th CPC in September 2013 because that would be a permanent solution. We are consistent in that demand from then onwards. RTOWA also demands the same formula.

We are also aware that achieving this demand is a herculean task and it is possible only through a political decision because the retirees of BSNL & MTNL are unique. When they were in service their pay master was PSU but after retirement their pay master is Government of India. It was not so for retirees of other CPSEs.

We tried our best with then MoC Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad but ultimately he told us that he is in agreement with officers stating that “without pay revision to the serving employees no pension revision is possible”. The same reply was given many a times on the floor of parliament. So, we were forced to seek a legal remedy though it is time-consuming and costly.

When there was change in key positions in Sanchar Bhavan and change in MoC, we thought that we can make an attempt once again to achieve this demand. We analyzed the reasons and collected the required material to counter the arguments of DoT which may pave the way for re-opening the issue.

We were in Delhi for four days from 22nd March 2022 and met not only the concerned officers in Sanchar Bhavan but also MoC Shri Aswin Vaishnavji. He was positive. Our view-points placed before DDG (Estt.) are given below:-

1) There are three components of retirement benefits viz. commutation, gratuity & pension. The first two are as per CCS (Pension) Rules and at par with C.G. employees and there is no rationale or justification to deny the third component.

2) Almost all the recommendations of 6th CPC like quantum of pension, age-related additional pension, enhanced family pension, commutation factor, gratuity ceiling etc. were made applicable to IDA pensioners also after getting a clarification from the nodal department, DoP&PW.

3) Conversion of IDA pay into CDA pay notionally in accordance with DoP&PW OM dated 19/9/2003 cannot be considered for pension revision because it was examined when last revision was given from 1/1/2007. During that period, there was a discussion among the officials of three departments viz. DoT, DoP&PW & DoE about implementing this OM. There was no consensus because DoP&PW which issued the said OM did not support the idea. So, the matter was referred to Department of Law & Justice. After a meeting between MoC & Minister for Law & Justice, reply came from that department asking the DoT to move a Cabinet Note and they would offer their comment. Accordingly, DoT moved a Cabinet Note, not relying on OM dated 19/9/2003 of DoP&PW.

3(a) Further, Department of Food & Public Distribution issued an order on 31/5/2005 regarding pension revision for those who were absorbed in FCI. Para 4 of that order also mentions about this OM dated 19/9/2003 but took a decision against its application. Hon Supreme Court gave a judgement in a case between UoI & P N Natarajan on 10/2/2010 stated that the absorbed employees of FCI are entitled for all retirement benefits available to C.G. employees. Accordingly, they are getting pension on IDA pay but Dearness Relief on CDA pattern.

4) DDG & Director said that the last pension revision was done as per 2nd PRC. We disagreed with their contention and told that 2nd PRC has nothing to do regarding pension revision because there were no terms of reference for pension revision for 2nd PRC and for that matter for any PRC so far. Orders for pay revision from 1/1/2007 were issued in 2009 for the Executives and it was issued on 7/5/2010 for the non-executives. Both were as recommended by 2nd PRC. But order for pension revision was not issued for those who retired prior to 1/1/2007. This created an anomaly between pre-2007 and post-2007 retirees and to undo that anomaly only, DoT moved a Cabinet Note in 2010 and in that 'note' there was no mention about 2nd PRC. So, we clearly told them that their understanding is misplaced.

6) DoP&PW sought for concrete proposal for pension revision for pre-2017 retirees and the formula to avoid anomaly for post-2017 retirees in the absence of pay revision. DoT did not comply with that requirement. We told the officers that in the absence of pay revision for post-2017 retirees also their pension may be multiplied by 2.515 factor at par with pre-2017 retirees to undo the anomaly. As an alternative, 32% of their pay may be added to their LPD notionally and fix their pension accordingly. DDG said that the pension should be on the basis of actual pay drawn. We told her that there are precedencies where pension was determined on the basis of notional pay also. One recent example was grant of 78.2% IDA merger on notional pay for the period from 1/1/2007 & 9/6/2013.

7) CPC recommendation is only for C.G pensioners was the bone of contention of DDG. Again this is also a misconception, we told her. We apprised her about Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking (DESU) which is a PSU. They are covered under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 and they got the benefit of 7th CPC as recommended by Wage Revision Committee headed by Retired HC judge Shri S N Aggarwal who submitted his report in July 2019. Their pay is higher than C.G employees pay. For example, the minimum pay in central government as on 1/1/1996 was Rs.2550/- whereas in DESU it was Rs.3050/- as on 1/1/1996 and it was Rs.3200/- from 15/11/1999. Accordingly their minimum pension was revised from 1/1/1996 in accordance with DoP&PW order that the minimum pension should not be less than 50% of minimum pay. Chapter 8 deals with "pension". We also showed her the copy of the report and order. The only difference is that their pension is paid from the pension fund. There also if there is any short-fall in the pension fund then it has to be made good by the Govt. So, this contention is also wrong.

8) First, DoT should decide for pension revision. Second, they should decide about the formula to be applied. Third, they should decide about the methodology to overcome the anomaly for post-2017 retirees. We asked them that in which stage the issue is now?. They have conveyed that DoT is yet to take a call for pension revision i.e. 'first stage'.

DDG (Estt.) wanted a 'written brief' from us which would enable her to counter the earlier noting on the file. We sent the written brief on 29th March 2022 and as we understand that after studying our brief, the 'Establishment section' has started to prepare a fresh brief. But let us understand that it has to cross many a hurdle. DoT finance has a role to play. DoP&PW has to concur with the proposal. Then Cabinet Note has to be prepared and sent to nodal departments including DoE. Political influence is required to convince DoE. So, it is a herculean task, but **we are hopeful**.