

Committee of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners' Associations
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Date: 14/12/2018

To
Shri K.V. Eapen, Secretary,
Department of Pension,
Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi-110003

Respected sir,

Sub: **Request for Pension revision to absorbed combined service pensioners of BSNL/MTNL from 1/1/2017 with a fitment factor of 32% recommended by 7th CPC by delinking pension revision from pay revision**

Introduction

Committee of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners' Associations (CBMPA) is an umbrella organization consisting of seven organizations of pensioners which represent a very large majority of BSNL/MTNL pensioners.

Background & Justification

2. All India BSNL Pensioners' Welfare Association (AIBSNLPWA) which is one major constituents of CBMPA, submitted a memorandum to 7th CPC on the above demand. On behalf of that association, the undersigned had the opportunity to tender oral evidence before the 7th CPC in Bengaluru. The chairman of the 7th CPC, after hearing the arguments advanced, commented that there seems to be prima-facie and justification in the demand. He also told that they would seek the opinion of the Govt. on this issue. Karnataka C.G. Pensioners Association fully supported this demand during the oral evidence. 7th CPC forwarded that demand to DoT for their comments. But DoT delayed the reply for more than 8 months and sent its comments only by last week of August 2015. By that time, 7th CPC was busy with finalizing the recommendations.

3. Bharat Pensioners Samaj (BPS) while tendering the oral evidence before 7th CPC highlighted the above demand. As per the suggestion of 7th CPC, BPS submitted a supplementary memorandum incorporating this demand. All India Federation of Pensioners Association (AIFPA) also included this demand in their memorandum.

4. The subject matter was taken up by the Associations with DoT and discussed at length with concerned officers including Secretary (T) & Hon. MoC several times justifying the demand.

5. DoT's order No.36-15/2000-Pen(T) dated 9/11/2000 states inter-alia "It has been decided by the Govt. that the employees of DoT who will be absorbed in BSNL will be entitled to the Government's scheme of pension/family pension even after their absorption in BSNL".

6. In conformity with the said order of DoT, Combined service pensioners are getting retirement benefits in accordance with CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, which is unique to BSNL/MTNL among all the PSUs, similar to C.G. pensioners.

7. Traditionally all the recommendations of Pay Commission on pension and pensionary benefits are applied to BSNL/MTNL IDA pensioners on their IDA pay scales with one exception i.e. Pension revision on CPC fitment factor has been denied so far on the ground that they have retired on IDA Pay scales.

8. BSNL/MTNL pensioners, on retirement, are entitled to CGHS benefits similar to C.G. pensioners.

9. Before 20/7/2016, pension liability of Gol was limited to 60% of revenue remitted to Gol by BSNL/MTNL. But on the basis of Cabinet decision, now 100% pension liability lies with Gol similar to C.G. pensioners. Pay revision to BSNL/MTNL employees depends upon the financial viability of those PSUs but pension revision has nothing to do with that.

10. Last pension revision was given from 1/1/2007 and we demand pension revision after 10 years similar to C.G. pensioners.

11. Payment of pension to BSNL/MTNL absorbees are accounted under MH 2071, similar to C.G. pensioners.

12. PRCs do not recommend pension revision because there is no terms of reference for them but CPCs (from 4th CPC onwards) do recommend for pension revision to the past pensioners in accordance with the judgement of the Apex Court delivered on 17/12/1982 by the constitutional bench.

13. The minimum/maximum pension for BSNL/MTNL pensioners is calculated on the basis of C.G. employees' minimum/maximum pay and not on BSNL/MTNL pay.

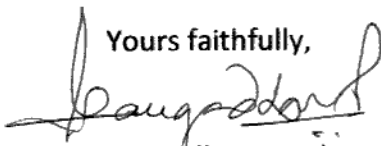
14. Pension contribution was given to the Govt. during their service period.

15. Our demand is simple. Existing basic pension on IDA + DR on IDA as on 1/1/2017 plus 32% of basic pension which works out to 14.58% of total pension. Total beneficiaries may be around 1.9 lakh (including MTNL) and the additional annual expenditure may be around Rs.650/- crores.

Demand

We were informed that DoT has sought the consent of DoP&PW for delinking pension revision from pay revision. In the light of above explanation, we request you, sir, to take a positive decision on this respect. Application of CPC fitment factor to BSNL/MTNL IDA pensioners shall be a permanent solution and hence we demand that. If you can spare some time convenient to you, sir, our representatives shall meet in person and explain the rationale and logic behind this demand.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

(P. Gangadhara Rao)
Convenor

Copy to Shri S.N. Mathur, Joint Secretary (Pension),