

# **RETIRED TELECOM OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

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

REGD.ADD:-A-16.GIRIDARSHAN CHS., DD ROAD, MULUND W, MUMBAI-400080

**Website – <http://rtowambi.in>**

N.W.CHINCHOLKAR  
PRESIDENT

BADRI R. PATHAK  
GENERAL SECRETARY

M.R.DIXIT  
TREASURER

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DATED 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER'2011

## **KEY NOTE ADDRESS** **BY SHRI.BADRI R.PATHAK GENERAL SECRETARY**

Respected distinguished guests Shri. Arvind Sawantji President MTN Kamgar Sangh & Convenor United Forum Mumbai, Shri. Peeyush Agarwalji ED MTNL Mumbai, Shri.A.K. Kaushikji GS TEAM, Shri. P.K.Adhikariji GM (Admn) Shri.Rakesh Tumhaneji GM (Fin), Shri.S.S. Nandaji GS RTOWA Delhi, Shri.J.B.Paranjpeji DGM (IR), Shri.N.Balasubramaniamji DGM (Accounts), Shri.C.Vethamanickamji DGM (MA&Pen), all the leaders of Executives Associations and Non-Executives Unions, all our special invitees and all retired executives, I welcome you all to this open session. We feel honoured to have the distinguished guests with us.

RTOWA was formed on 22/08/2008 with the objectives of Securing the interests of the MTNL Pensioners and to function as a welfare organisation for MTNL Pensioners. Now anxiety has set in the minds of the pensioners whether the pension will be paid uninterruptedly and whether the pension will be revised from time to time to meet the rising cost of living. These two issues viz., Payment of Pension by Government and Revision of Pension from 01/01/2007 are haunting us.

### **Payment of Pension by Government:-**

The goal is to get our pension from Government. The struggle to achieve this goal is going on for last 11 years. Every Union and Association has put their might in this struggle.

We were recruited by the Government. Everyone who has opted for Govt. Pension has put in a minimum of 10 years of service in Government. Many have put in more than 30 years of service in Government. So logically the pension should be paid by Government. Government has accepted this principle. According to the Govt's assurances vide letter dated 22/08/2002, "pension of those who have opted for Govt. Scheme of pension shall be paid by the Govt. The exact modalities in this regard are being worked by Dept of P&PW". Again DoT has committed in a subsequent letter dated 11/08/2003 that "it has also been decided that employees of MTNL be given the same treatment as available to the employees of BSNL. The exact modalities for implementing the above decision are being worked by Dept of P&PW".

Then why the problem is still lingering on ? It is the play of bureaucracy and vested interests. Bureaucracy deliberately keeps loopholes, looks in to the 'words', and not the 'spirit' in any document. They twist the words, give different interpretations to any orders. The terms and conditions for absorption are contained in the orders dated 05/07/89 itself. It is nowhere stated in these orders that pension will be paid by a Trust. It is obvious that pension will be paid by Government. Then what is the necessity of Rule 37A ? If the BSNL employees wanted sanctity of terms and conditions in a Rule form, then Govt should have included MTNL also in Rule 37A. There is no valid reason for exclusion of MTNL in Rule 37A.

Now Minister says that the pay scales in MTNL are higher and MTNL employees should agree for reduction of their pay scales on par with that of BSNL employees. How does the pay scale relevant to the pension issue ? Suppose the Pay Scales in MTNL become less than that of BSNL in the next pay revision, will the pension payment arrangements will change ? Pay scales for Non Executives are negotiated settlements approved by DoT and DPE and with legal sanctity. The executives pay scales and fixation rules are as per the Pay Committee recommendations. Source of Pension Payment is not the criteria for deciding the pay scale in any PSU.

The other view is that MTNL's revenue is decreasing day by day. MTNL is burdened with huge debts and has huge burden of wage bill and pension bill. The cash flow is negative and banks may even decline loan. Then how the salary and pension can be paid ? If the pay is reduced to that of BSNL, wage bill will become little less. If the pension burden is ridden off, MTNL will have more ground for financial stability. So to save MTNL from drowning, pension issue needs to be solved with utmost urgent. I leave it to all Unions and Associations to deliberate on this issue and arrive at consensus.

#### **Revision of Pension wef. 01/01/2007:-**

As per the judgement of the honourable Supreme Court pension of existing pensioners should be revised from time to time to keep conformity with the pension of those retire subsequently with increased pay due to pay revision. The pension of Government employees is revised as and when pay of the working employees is revised. The pension of the BSNL pensioners has already been revised. The revision needs to be done in a routine course. But this has not happened in MTNL. Though the revision is due from 01/01/2007, MTNL passed board resolution in the end of June'2011 only after exerting pressure by United Forum. The issue is pending with DoT since last four months. RTOWA is pursuing this issue. I request all the Unions and Associations also to exert pressure on the authorities to speed up the process for revision.

I profusely thank all the distinguished guests for sparing their time to attend this Open Session.

With greetings for Happy Diwali

**BADRI R. PATHAK**  
General Secretary