

Brief of speech of Com. J.S. Yadav at in the open session of the All India Conference of AI RBSNL EWA at Kolkatta on 20/11/2023.

Respected President, Com. Prahlad Rai GS of AI RBSNL EWA, Com. M. K. Bagchi, Com. A.K. Kaushik and all the dignitaries on the dais,

All of you know the judgment of PCAT in Pension Revision case. It is a great victory for pensioners of BSNL and MTNL. The judgement of Pr. CAT Delhi is of great significance. The court has vindicated our consistent stand on pension revision. What is our consistent stand ? Pension revision should be delinked from pay revision and the pension revision should be in accordance with 7th CPC fitment factor. Here I should mention, there are a few Associations wavering in their demand from 7th CPC to 3rd PRC and spoiled the issue. These Associations should now mend their approach.

Now let me narrate in brief the steps taken by RTOWA Mumbai for pension revision.

Govt issued orders for pension revision of Central Government pensioners as per 7th CPC during 2016. Soon thereafter, We four Associations namely AI BSNL PWA, AI RBSNL EWA, RTOWA Delhi and RTOWA Mumbai met at Delhi on 23/02/2017 itself and discussed elaborately about 7th CPC. In that meeting we took three decisions. 1. We should demand pension revision as per 7th CPC. 2. All Associations should raise and pursue the same demand. 3. If needed a joint forum will be formed in due course. Since then RTOWA Mumbai has been consistently and firmly demanding pension revision as per 7th CPC and launched many agitations under the banner of United Forum of MTNL Associations and Unions.

DPE issued orders for implementation of 3rd PRC in Aug'2017. On 30/10/2017 itself RTOWA Mumbai wrote a letter to DoT demanding to delink the pension revision from pay revision. In the same letter we demanded the fitment factor of 2.515 to the pensioners retired prior to 01/01/2017 as well as to those retired after 01/01/2017. In Nov'2018 CBMPA 'Committee of BSNL and MTNL Pensioners Association' was formed with GS of AI BSNL PWA as Convenor. On 21/11/2018, CBMPA wrote the first joint letter to DoT demanding pension revision as per 7th CPC with fitment factor 2.515 delinking the pension revision from pay revision. On behalf of CBMPA, Com. M.K. Bagchi ji, Com. Amit Gupta ji and the office bearers of AIBSNL PWA had a leading role in meeting the MoC, officers of DoT and the officers of Department of Pension and Pension Welfare many times during 2018 and 2019.

In Dec'2019, Hon'MoC refused to delink pension revision from pay revision in the meeting with leaders of CBMPA. MoC replied to Qn No.265 in Rajya Sabha that "Pension revision is linked to pay revision. As pay revision cannot be done, pension revision is not agreed to on date". In this background CBMPA met on 10/12/2019 and took a decision to resort to legal remedy. After elaborate discussions among the Associations of CBMPA, three cases were filed in PCAT Delhi in Sep'2020. We gratefully remember the contribution of Com. Amit Guptaji and Com M. K. Bagchi in gathering the documents and briefing the issue properly to the lawyers. Com. M.K. Bagchi had co-ordinated with lawyers since beginning.

In July'21 Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw assumed the charge of MoC. In Oct'21 Sh. K. Rajaraman assumed the charge of Secretary (T). AIBSNL PWA took a lead to meet the MoC thro Hon'ble Minister Prahlad Joshi. Hon'ble MoC and Secretary (T) gave positive signals for pension revision. Pension Revision file was reopened. Hopes arose for pension revision through discussions outside the court. All the Associations of BSNL and MTNL started pursuing the issue again. MPs from different states wrote letters to MoC and raised the issue in Parliament. At the request of RTOWA Mumbai, Sh. Gopal Shetty MP from North Mumbai also wrote a letter to Hon' MoC. Pensioners started believing that pension revision will be a reality soon. Member (S) held a formal meeting with all the Associations of BSNL and MTNL on 17/10/22. In that meeting he said pension revision will be delinked from pay

revision but the fitment will be with zero percent. Since then, Com. M.K. Bagchi, Com. Prahlad Rai, Com. Kaushik, office bearers of AIBSNL PWA met the officers of DoT many times, wrote many letters demanding fitment as per 7th CPC. In a few meetings office bearers of RTOWA Mumbai also participated. During the same time, some Associations and unions of BSNL/MTNL were also busy in meeting the officers of DoT begging for 3rd PRC fitment factor. We, the Associations of CBMPA launched nationwide agitations during Dec'22 to Feb'23. The agitations led by RTOWA Mumbai was highly successful with mass participation of pensioners from MTNL and BSNL.. However DoT was not ready to accept our demand of pension revision as per 7th CPC. In this background the judgment has come in our favour vindicating our stand of fitment as per 7th CPC.

Now what is the way forward ? We are trying to convince DoT to accept the Court verdict and to implement the orders. PCAT has given time of 10 weeks to implement the orders from the date of receipt of certified copy. This time limit will be over within a few days. We, all the Associations of CBMPA are doing our best to convince DoT to accept the judgement and to implement it. We will continue to exert pressure on DoT by all means including political pressure to implement the PCAT judgement. Let us hope the pension revision becomes reality soon.

Apart from Pension related issues, MTNL and BSNL Associations can co-ordinate their efforts in the betterment of CGHS services. In the coming days we can discuss this issue.

Long live the unity of Pensioners Associations of BSNL and MTNL.