

## **DEMANDS FOR BSNL RETIREES**

Some of the demands concerned the DoT authorities and other demands concerned BSNL authorities.

(I) DoT Authorities :

(1) Pension : Revision based on the grounds of BSNL executives (working employees) formula (i.e. 50% D.A. merger & 30% increase on total w.e.f. 1-1-2007)

(2) Retirement Benefits : On the grounds of VI CPC i.e. raising ceiling of gratuities from 3.5 Lakhs to 10 Lakhs. Enhanced Pension for 10 years instead of 7 years, 10 months average or last pay drawn (whichever is beneficial) for deciding Basic Pension, etc. All these favourable recommendations of the VI CPC must be implemented for BSNL retirees also.

(3) 50% DR Merger : The benefit of D.R. merger is not extended to BSNL pensioners, who retired prior to 1-1-2007. This is discriminatory. This item is hanging nearly for one year.

(4) Pension Revision : BSNL staff retired between Oct. 2000 & Jun 2001 are getting less pension as they got partly C.D.A. scales for calculating 10 months average salary. Hence their pension revision should be considered.

(5) Special Dispensation order : BSNL retirees between Jan 2007 and Sept. 2007 are getting less pension because of 50% D.A. merger. To avoid such situation special dispensation order was issued by govt. at the time of 50% D.A. merger for central govt. (D.O.T.) pensioners. Similar order to be issued by BSNL.

(6) Reckoning extra increment for retirement Benefits : 10% of BCR officials were given promotion for GP IV. The retired without this promotion. They were given one extra increment. This extra increment is not considered for gratuity, Pension etc. This should be taken in to account.

Latest news from All India BSNL Officers' Association dated 1-4-2009 : According to our sources, IDA is to increase by 0.3% from 16.6% to 16.9% w.e.f. 1.4.2009. Finally a good news for BSNL Pensioners. Our General Secretary has been called today over phone by a senior officer of DoP & PW and has been informed that, in response to our letter No. AIBSNLOA / CHQ / 2009 dated 13.3.2009. Clarification has since been issued to DoT to implement all the amended provisions of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 including enhanced limit of gratuity effective from 1.1.2006 for the BSNL Pensioners.

(II) BSNL AUTHORITIES :

(1) HRA : It is requested that percentage of HRA given to serving staff may be given to BSNL pensioners also.

(2) Travel Concession : BSNL pensioners may be given a sum equivalent to one month pension as travel concession once in two year for visiting pilgrimage places.

(3) Festival Grant : We request that a lump sum grant of Rs. 5000/- per year may be given once in a year. (4) Funeral Grant : Many governments. like Andhra Pradesh are sanctioning Funeral Grant. We request Rs. 10,000/- may be given as this grant.

(5) Health Care : BSNL MRS is a very good Scheme. But reputed Hospitals are getting out of this empanelled list. These should be brought back on the panel. 50% medical allowance for OPD should be given on basis of last month Basic & IDA of 1st April of every year.

(6) Housing : If staff quarters are vacant, they may be allotted to willing pensioners.

(7) Broad Band Concession : Pensioners may be given Broad Band Concession on par with serving employees.

(8) Room for Association : Room may be allotted to Pensioners' Association up to S.S.A. H.Q. level as a meeting place. Permission to hold General Body meeting in office premises on Sunday / Holidays may be granted.

Meeting on 28th March, 2009

Meeting was held at 14.00 hrs. at CTO Compound, New Delhi. The discussion took place on above mentioned demands. It was unanimously decided to request Bharat Central Pensioners' Confederation to take lead and approach DoT & BSNL for approval of these demands.

A separate adhoc committee was formed for BSNL Pensioners' Welfare. Mr. Chhidu Sing was selected as a convenor for this committee. Member were also selected from each state. Mr. S. V. Deshpande was elected from Maharashtra. The next meeting of this committee will be held at Tamilnadu in July, 2009.

Meeting on 29th March, 2009

Meeting was held at 10.00 hrs, at Sanatan Dharma Mandir, New Delhi. The difficulties of Central Govt. Pensioners retired after 1-1-2006 (i.e. after VI CPC) were pointed out by me. For example, These pensioners did not receive benefit of pay revision, revised gratuity & commutation, Pension arrears, Revised P.P.O.s are to be issued by concerned departments.

Other demands and anomalies arised after VI CPC implementation. They are , Pay Fixation & fitment benefits for pensioner. Pension to be paid at 50% of the 10 months average pay or last pay drawn (whichever is higher).

50% DA Merger

On 30th March, 2009 I met the concerned director Telecom for case of 50% DA merger for BSNL retirees. It was gathered that the case was received back from Department of Public Enterprise and now expected to be settled soon.

I am everyday in touch with New Delhi and this news as soon as received, will be communicated to all branch Secretaries.