

# Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Associations.

JF/ PEN RVN/ MOC/ 2023

18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

To,

**Shri Ashwini Vaishnawi Ji,  
Hon'ble Minister of Communications,  
Sanchar Bhawan  
New Delhi -110001**

Respected Sir,

Sub: - **Pension Revision of BSNL/MTNL absorbed pensioners with 15% fitment as per 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC from 01-01-2017, delinking wage revision - Widespread resentment and anguish amongst about 4 lakh pensioners for unwarranted, unjustified, deliberate and continuing inordinate delay in resolution - your benign Intervention solicited on highest priority for its expeditious settlement.**

Ref: **(1) Joint Forum memorandum addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications dated 25-01-2023.  
(2) Joint Forum letter addressed to the Secretary, DoT dated 20-03-2023.  
(3) Joint Forum letter dated 27-03-2023 addressed to Hon'ble MOC.**

We really appreciate and acknowledge your kind, decisive, pragmatic and timely intervention for taking a very rational and crucial decision of delinking our Pension Revision from Wage Revision in order to pave the way for resolution of our incredibly and inordinately delayed Pension Revision.

Thereafter your clear cut and unambiguous directives to the concerned officers to process the issue of Pension Revision on priority and take it to its logical conclusion has been remarkable for which we are indebted to your goodself.

**Without any exaggeration Sir, but for your decisive, timely and imposing intervention, nothing would really have moved because of determined stand of concerned officers of DOT to sabotage and defeat the resolution of the issue.**

**We are also extremely grateful to you Sir by directing concerned officers to extend maximum fitment of 15% proposed by 3rd PRC in clear and loud words.**

But Sir, as already has been narrated in our above referred letters, the processing of the issue at the DoT level is moving at snail's pace, the least to say. Actually, DoT has spent about four months to calculate the financial implications for incomprehensible reasons and the delay in its final resolution continues for reasons best known to the concerned officers.

We have had meetings with Member(Finance) and Member (Services) on 21-03-2023. During these meetings we were told that three meetings have already been held internally with Secretary DoT and that final decision on fitment will be taken in the meeting with the Hon'ble MOC, probably in the first week of April,2023. Unfortunately, nothing has happened thereafter in this regard till now, even though considerable time has elapsed since.

We had made request to the DoT vide our letter dated 20th March,2023 to form a Special purpose committee at DoT level to monitor the progress on the processing of the issue to avoid unavoidable

delay but this was also not acceded to for inexplicable reasons.

BSNL/MTNL pensioners were forced by DOT Establishment to languish by denying them legitimate Pension Revision for last seven years on frivolous, non-existent and extraneous considerations. The apathy and insensitivity and ruthlessness with which DOT Establishment treated pensioners of BSNL/MTNL has no just parallels.

Of late, it has come to our notice that DoT has decided to send the financial implications of 5%, 10% and 15% fitment to Department of Expenditure without taking a decision on fitment.

**Sir, where and on what basis is the need for DOT to send implications on 5, 10 and 15% to D.O.E when we are irrefutably, based on hard facts, decisions of the Govt. at the time of absorption that we shall be treated fully as par with Central Govt. Employees in all respects, including payment of Pension. We have paid Pension Contribution three times more than Central Govt Pensioners on IDA scales. We have already fully met the liability of the Govt. in totality to give us fitment of 15% according to 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC.**

**Instead of taking this logical and justified course of action, DOT in highly arbitrary, unjustified, irrelevant and meaningless manner, is likely to send the proposal of 5, 10, and 15% to D.O.E, thereby trying to escape its inescapable responsibility.**

DOT should have very strongly, based on the decisions of the Govt and other hard facts strongly justified proposal of extending 15% fitment based on 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC and thereafter relentlessly pursued it with D.O.E for its resolution. Needles to mention, Sir, It is absolutely incumbent on part of DOT and their fundamental, inherent and inescapable responsibility to prevail upon, formidably plead, argue, convince and justify with D.O.E to extend 15% fitment because we took absorption based on the concrete assurance and decisions of DOT, not D.O.E.

We are determined not to allow DOT to play hide and seek and force them to uphold their commitments at the time of absorption by sending the proposal of 15% fitment to D.O.E in unambiguous terms and thereafter vigorously and consistently pursue it with D.O.E till its resolution.

This needless, highly prejudiced and irrational decision of DoT to send implications on 5, 10 and 15% to D.O.E clearly tantamounts to DOT abdicating its responsibility of deciding fitment and needs to be out rightly rejected for obvious reasons and we solicit your early and humble intervention in this regard, Sir.

The pensioners of BSNL/ MTNL were mercilessly trampled under their feet by DOT Establishment for last seven years and they have shown utmost patience in bearing such an unbearable misery and torture let loose by DOT Establishment by denying them pension revision for the last 75 months, while their counterparts, the Central Government Pensioners have got the pension revision from 01.01.2016 with 15% fitment and also the further benefits in accordance with parity between pre and post 2016 pensioners (3<sup>rd</sup> option).

Thousands of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners have left this world without getting their due benefits. It is unjust and unfair to prolong the issue further, testing the very patience of the aged and ailing seniors and subjecting them to further torture.

Sir, we are old, ageing and ailing but we hold very firm and unwavering conviction and commitment to fight to our last breath to secure our undeniable and legitimate Pension Revision by extending 15% fitment and to secure that we are ready to go to any extent.

Therefore, we all the constituents of the Joint Forum fervently and humbly solicit immediate intervention of your goodself by directing concerned officers not to play further with Pensioners on whom they have already wrecked havoc of worst kind for last seven years and to resolve our

legitimate issue of Pension Revision by extending legitimate 15% fitment without any further delay whatsoever.

Respected sir, we are quite confident that under your towering, unprejudiced and pragmatic guardianship, justice would be definitely met out to Pensioners expeditiously and the concerned officers will be yet again directed to treat this issue with the kind of seriousness and urgency that it deserves.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



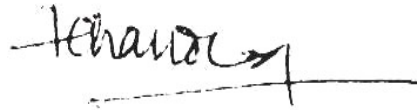
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