



Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

Reg.No: SOCIETY/WEST/2021/8902564

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SNPWA/CHQ/ Hon'ble/MOC/1/22

Dated 29th March.,22.

To

Respected Ashwani Vaisnaw,

Hon'ble MOC, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi

Sub; Immediate benign personal intervention solicited to mitigate intense and unprecedented misery and suffering that BSNL/MTNL pensioners and their families are going through the past more than five years because of non resolution of their highly justified and legitimate issue of pension revision on purely untenable, extraneous and non- existent grounds. In the intervening period, Hon'ble Sir, thousands and thousands of pensioners have died and continue to die with the day in dismay at their unjustified fate in having to leave for the other world with grief and groan at being denied their legitimate right of Pension Revision. This kind of apathy and complete lack of human touch and concern, of an unprecedented and incredible magnitude, has never been witnessed before.

Hon'ble Sir

Your Hon'ble self will do very well to recollect that it was during the tenure of Legendary, towering, unparalleled and tallest Prime Minister of this great Nation, Respected Late Sh Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sir, under whom you have had the great privilege to be his private Secretary, that Union Cabinet took the decision of Corporatization of DOT in the year 2000 and formation of BSNL, with MTNL having been formed already in the year 1986. Naturally, Govt. has had no other option but to initiate the process of absorption of employees of DOT into BSNL and MTNL by calling for options from the employees of erstwhile DOT.

The crucial decision that was taken under the Chairmanship of the then greatest Legendary stalwart of the Nation, Respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sir was that those taking absorption from DOT into BSNL/MTNL would be fully treated at par with Central Govt. Employees in all respects whatsoever, including their terminal benefits of Pension, gratuity, Commutation of pension etc.etc. Of very specific, underlying, inescapable and huge significance is the unambiguous and concrete decision of the Union Cabinet that, on absorption in BSNL/MTNL, absorbed employees would be treated fully at par with Central Govt. Employees in terms of 1972 CCS Pension Rules that regulate Pension and other Terminal benefits of Central Govt. Employees. Honble Sir, this underlying and defining crux of the decision of the Union Cabinet taken under the Chairmanship of none other than immortal Respected Vajpayee sir cannot be allowed to be circumvented, sabotaged or defeated on so called untenable, extraneous, frivolous and non-existent grounds. And, Hon'ble Sir, this is what is precisely being done for the last more than five years. A misleading narrative, with no basis and foundation whatsoever, was built by linking our Pension Revision with wage Revision of working Employees of BSNL/MTNL, when BSNL/MTNL has nothing to do with our pension, which is being paid by the Government of India from its consolidated fund. However this misconceived narrative was endorsed by Ex Secy/DOT without any due diligence or any assiduous efforts, completely setting aside formidable and irrefutable grounds solidly meriting our pension Revision. And this false narrative was unfortunately passed on to the lawmakers of the Country, in flagrant contravention and defiance of the decision of the Union Cabinet taken in the year 2000 and also the provisions of the Rules, particularly Rule 37(A), that was put in place by amending Rule 37 to ensure and safeguard our total parity with Central Govt. Employees and pensioners in all respects.

Hon'ble Sir, the fact that there can surely be some impediments while implementing decision of the Govt. cannot be discounted and disputed but then to project these ticklish issues in a highly amplified manner simply to defeat the decision of the Govt. is simply unpardonable and unacceptable. It is the bounden and fundamental responsibility of the entire bureaucracy to address these issues, through extensive and comprehensive consultations, particularly with the concerned nodal ministries, to eventually pave the way for implementation of the decision of the Govt. It is precisely here that bureaucracy in DOT miserably failed to sort out the issues that they thought were coming in the way of implementation of this crucial decision of the Govt., thus putting in miserable and distressing plight more than 3 lakh pensioners of BSNL/MTNL, thousands of whom have gone to the other world in the intervening period. Putting such a crucial issue concerning three lakh pensioners in deep freezer for more than five years, without trying to make any headway, is a matter of very profound concern, virtually unforgivable. **While the Hon'ble PM of the Country keeps on exhorting bureaucracy to shed their dogmatic colonial approach and get extremely proactive and vibrant to address the issues,**

unfortunately this approach was altogether missing in DOT on such a vital issue. Hon'ble Sir, it is not only that we are covered by 1972 CCS Pension Rules, Provisions of Rule 37(A), concrete decision of the Union Cabinet that we shall be fully treated at par with Central Govt. Employees in all respects but we have paid Pension Contribution to the Govt. much higher than Central Govt. Employees, Central Govt. Employees paying pension contribution on their actual basic pay but BSNL/MTNL employees, in sharp contrast, paying their Pension contribution on maximum of their pay scales. There is nothing that even remotely distinguishes us from Central Govt. Employees and Pensioners, but then it is completely incomprehensible and baffling on our part to understand what is it that is holding up the resolution of this most crucial issue for last more than five years.

Honble Sir, what has rekindled and reignited the aspirations of pensioners and infused a fresh lease of life amongst them is encouraging and inspiring reply given to the law makers of late that the issue is under examination, in sharp contrast to the initial version of linking pension revision with wage revision which was not at all based on facts. We are confident that this concrete assurance of yours will fructify in not too distant a future and thus pave the way for holistic resolution of the issue. This paradigm shift is also because of taking over of new Telecom Secretary, Respected Sh. K. Rajaraman, who commenced discussions on a very positive note with Pensioners Associations, which were sealed by his immediate ex predecessor completely for more than four years. Today, because of proactive intervention of Respected Secy(T), we find a discernible, positive and very tangible signs of the resolution of this issue. Also, Sir, With the change of guard in the Establishment section of DOT, we find huge perceptual difference and willingness and receptivity on the part of DDG(E) and Dir (E) to take as many inputs as possible from Retired Associations in order to wriggle out the inadequacies that we are told are holding up the resolution of the issue so as to take the issue to its logical conclusion. This radical shift in approach, in itself, is remarkable.

Finally, Hon'ble Sir, being a distinguished IITian and having a Masters from one of best schools of Management, Wharton, we look towards your Hon'ble self more of an intellectual than anything else and we are quite confident that your Hon'ble Self will fully recognize, acknowledge and appreciate the incredible mental torture, agony and trauma that more than three lakh pensioners of BSNL/MTNL and their families have been made to go through and continue to undergo for the last more than five years, by blatantly and with incredible impunity defying decisions of the Union Cabinet, have been made to suffer by denying them their irrefutably legitimate and justified right of Revision of Pension. Having said that, Hon'ble Sir, we earnestly implore and urge upon you to direct the concerned officers in DOT to move very swiftly by having objective and uninterrupted consultations and discussions to immediately firm up a self contained proposal for Pension Revision, **even as suggested by DOP&PW way back in 2018**, without any loss

of time since, with the day, good number of Pensioners are leaving this world. **We have no doubt that your Honble Self will treat this issue with the kind of seriousness, human touch and urgency that it legitimately deserves.**

With regards

Sincerely Yours



G.L.Jogi

Copy to:

1. Respected Sh.Devusinh Chauhan, Honble M. O.S for Communication for kind information pl.
1. Respected Sh. K.Rajaraman, Secy/DOT, for kind information and n/a pl.
2. Respected Sh. A. K. Mittal, M(S)/DOT. He is kindly requested to finalize proposal for Pension Revision at the earliest. Sir, we assure you to share as much of feedback as possible to help Establishment section to effectively respond and counter some issues that are said to be coming in the way of finalization of proposal.
3. Respected Sh Dilip Padhye, M(F)?DOT for information pl.
4. Respected Sh. P.K.Purwar, CMD/BSNL, for information pl.
5. Respected Sh. Arvind Vadnerkar, Dir(HR)/BSNL, for information pl.
6. Respected Madam Yojana Das, Director(Finance)/BSNL, for information pl.