



# Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

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**SNPWA/CHQ/MOC/2/24**

**Dated 2nd July 2024**

To

Sh. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia,  
Hon'ble Minister of Communications,  
Govt. of India,  
New Delhi - 110001

**Subject: Regarding Pension Revision of Absorbed Combined Service Pensioners of BSNL-MTNL with effect from 01/01/2017 - Languishing for the Last Seven Years Due to Bureaucratic Apathy in DOT**

Respected Sir,

The Sanchar Nigam Pensioners Welfare Association, New Delhi, a constituent of the Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners' Associations, feels compelled to apprise you of the unprecedented, disturbing, and insensitive actions of DOT bureaucracy that have inflicted untold suffering and misery on BSNL/MTNL absorbed pensioners.

A. DOT employees took absorption in BSNL/MTNL with effect from 1.10.2000 based on the concrete decision of the Union Cabinet that they would be treated fully at par with Central Govt. employees and pensioners in all respects.

B. To ensure total parity between Central Govt. pensioners and pensioners of BSNL/MTNL absorbed from DOT, the provisions of Rule 37 of the then Statutory Pension Rules 1972 were amended to include Rule 37(A), which unambiguously stipulates that the pension and other terminal benefits of absorbed BSNL/MTNL employees shall be paid by the government.

C. Based on this decision of the Union Cabinet, erstwhile DOT employees took absorption in BSNL/MTNL in 2000. This decision was the exclusive basis on which DOT employees took absorption in BSNL/MTNL.

However, for the last seven years, DOT bureaucracy has exhibited unprecedented insensitivity, apathy, and prejudice, denying pension revision to BSNL/MTNL pensioners on the misleading and fallacious premise that DOT employees cease to be Central Govt. employees upon their absorption in BSNL/MTNL.

For the last seven years, DOT bureaucracy has built a highly erroneous and misleading narrative, in complete defiance of the Union Cabinet's decision and the provisions of Rule 37(A), that absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners are not entitled to pension revision at par with Central Govt. pensioners because they cease to be Central Govt. employees upon their absorption in BSNL/MTNL.

Based on this misleading narrative, DOT bureaucracy has continued to mislead political leaders in telecom for the last seven years, claiming that absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners are not eligible for pension revision.

In the interim, the DOT bureaucracy accepted that pension revision is delinked from wage revision and claimed it was working on a mechanism to implement pension revision satisfactorily. They also misled pensioners by stating that the matter would not go to court.

As a result of this callousness and prejudice, more than five lakh pensioners of BSNL/MTNL have been deprived of their pension revision for the last seven years, with thousands passing away without receiving their legitimate pension revision.

**This misleading and prejudiced narrative of DOT was outrightly rejected by the Hon. PB CAT ND on 21st Sept 2023. In a landmark judgment, the Hon. CAT ruled that the pension revision of absorbed BSNL/MTNL employees should be done in accordance with the recommendations of the 7th CPC, and tore into DOT's arguments that absorbed DOT employees cease to be Central Govt. employees upon their absorption in BSNL/MTNL.**

**DOT was specifically directed by the Hon. PB CAT ND to implement the judgment within 10 weeks from 21st Sept 2023. However, more than ten months have passed, and DOT continues to defy this judgment.**

**Further, DOT approached the Hon. Delhi High Court, filing a writ petition to set aside the PB CAT ND judgment, but the Hon. High Court refused to stay the judgment in its order of 5th April 2024.**

**DOT again made a desperate attempt by approaching the Hon. High Court of Delhi on 31st May 2024, praying to stay the contempt proceedings initiated by PB CAT ND for non-implementation of its judgment and to prepone the hearing date of the writ petition filed by DOT.**

**The Hon. High Court of Delhi not only rejected both pleas on 31st May 2024 but also severely reprimanded DOT by imposing heavy costs.**

**From these facts, it is clear that DOT bureaucracy, due to its deep-rooted bias against absorbed BSNL/MTNL employees, is determined to deny them their legitimate pension revision on non-existent, frivolous, and prejudiced grounds.**

**We, the pensioners of BSNL/MTNL, who have been languishing for our just and legitimate pension revision for the last seven years, seek your intervention. We request you to direct the DOT bureaucracy to initiate immediate action to implement the PB CAT ND judgment in its letter and spirit.**

**We are confident that you will recognize and address the unprecedented distress and gross injustice inflicted upon BSNL/MTNL pensioners by the DOT bureaucracy. Your intervention is crucial to prevent further suffering and ensure that no more pensioners pass away without receiving their rightful pension revision.**

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



**(G.L. Jogi)**

General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Sh. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (T), DOT New Delhi.
2. S. V. Srinivasan, Secretary, DOP&PW.
3. Sh. T.V. Somanathan, Secretary, Finance.