



Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

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SNPWA/ CHQ/ 1/ Cabinet (Secy) / 24. Dated 4th Feb, 2025.

To
Sh T. V. Somanathan,
Cabinet Secretary,
Government of India,
ND- 110001.

Subject: **Request for Inclusion of Pension Revision of BSNL/MTNL Retirees in the Terms of Reference for the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)**

Respected Sir,

We, on behalf of the Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association (SNPWA), wish to bring to your esteemed attention the legitimate concerns of the Retired Employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

These employees, absorbed in BSNL/ MTNL from DOT, under Rule 37A of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, enjoy a status equivalent to Central Government pensioners in all respects, under the Provisions of Rule 37(A).

We humbly request the inclusion of BSNL/MTNL retirees' pension revision in the *Terms of Reference* for the 8th Central Pay Commission, citing the following justifications:

Justifications

1. Parity with Central Government Employees* :

BSNL/MTNL absorbed employees are deemed to have retired from Government service under Rule 37A, an amendment of Rule 37, specifically carved out for facilitating our absorption into the corporate setup from DOT. Their pension is calculated in the same manner as that of Central Government employees retiring on the same day.

2. Pension Paid from the Consolidated Fund of India:

The pensions of BSNL/MTNL retirees are disbursed directly by the Government of India from the Consolidated Fund of India.

3. No Financial Burden on the Government:

The pension contributions of all these employees were and are being paid in full during their service, calculated at the maximum of their pay scales, ensuring no financial liability on the Government post-retirement.

4. BSNL's Profitability is Irrelevant to Pension Payments:

Pension payments and Revisions for BSNL/MTNL retirees are independent of BSNL's profitability since the company does not contribute to or bear any responsibility, in any manner, for pension payments.

5. Pension Payment Orders (PPOs) Issued by DoT:

The PPOs of BSNL/MTNL retirees are issued by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), not by BSNL or MTNL, further reaffirming their status as Central Government pensioners.

6. DoT-Issued Pension Identity Cards:

All BSNL/MTNL retirees hold Pension Identity Cards issued by DoT, reinforcing their status as Central Government pensioners.

7. Eligibility for CGHS Facilities:

BSNL/MTNL retirees are entitled to CGHS facilities, a benefit usually not extended to employees of all PSUs.

8. Precedent of FCI Absorbees:

The Government has already addressed a similar issue for Food Corporation of India (FCI) absorbees, who were granted pension revision as per the recommendations of the 7th CPC with effect from 1.1.2017. This was clarified through DoPT Order No. 38/37/2016-P&PW (A)(i) dated 4.8.2016, and the revised pension was implemented for FCI absorbees governed under CCS Pension Rules. A similar approach for BSNL/MTNL retirees would ensure parity.

9. DoT's Earlier Letter to DPE:

The DoT had earlier sought to include BSNL/MTNL retirees' pension revision in the terms of reference of the 3rd PRC through Letter No. 40-17/2018-Pen(T) but the request was not processed further as pensions do not fall under the DPE's purview. This further underscores and reinforces the necessity of addressing this issue under CPC Terms of Reference.

10. Applicability of Past CPC Recommendations

Past CPC recommendations, such as increases in minimum pension, ceiling on gratuity, enhanced pension at certain age milestones (80, 85, 90 years, etc.), and eligibility for pension

after 10 years of service, have already been extended to BSNL/MTNL retirees. Including their pension revision in future CPC considerations are, therefore, legitimate, logical and equitable.

Conclusion

Excluding BSNL/MTNL retirees from the Purview of 8th CPC's terms of reference, as far as their Pension Revision is concerned, would not only be a direct infringement of the Provisions of Rule 37(A) but would also lead to unwarranted disparity between Central Govt. Pensioners vis- a- vis Pensioners of BSNL/ MTNL but create inequity and distress among a significant section of the pensioners.

We, therefore, respectfully urge your esteemed office to include the case of Pension Revision of BSNL/MTNL retirees in the 8th CPC's Terms of Reference, ensuring fairness and justice, besides upholding the Satutory Provisions of Rule 37(A).

We trust that this matter will receive your kind consideration and look forward to a positive resolution.

Thanking You,
Yours sincerely



G. L. Jogi
General Secretary,
SNPWA

Copy to

1. Sh Neeraj Mittal, Secy(T), for kind information and n/ a please
2. Com Shiva Gopal Mishra, Secy(Staff Side)/ National Council JCM, for kind information & n/ a please.
3. Dy Secy(JCA) for n/ a please.