

# Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Associations, New Delhi

PRESS RELEASE

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## ***Joint Forum to stage massive dharna in New Delhi on 12.11.2024 against denial of Pension Revision due from 01.01.2017.***

### **Protest will galore reflecting the anger and anguish of 4 lakh BSNL MTNL Pensioners against sheer injustice of the Central Government.**

The Joint Forum of BSNL MTNL Pensioners Associations comprising 8 pensioners organisations is all set to launch a massive sit in Dharna from 10AM to 1 PM on 12-11-2024 at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Hundreds of senior citizens from all over the country will participate in the protest action demanding resolution of their long pending burning issue of pension revision with 15% fitment, delinking wage revision.

During the formation of BSNL, the then Central Government led by Shri A. B. Vajpayee had assured the erstwhile employees of Department of Telecommunications and Department of Telecom Services better prospects and government pension. Accordingly, pension to absorbed retirees of BSNL and MTNL is being paid from the Consolidated Fund by the Central Government.

Surprisingly, Narendra Modi government had initially taken a stand that pension revision is possible only after wage revision of BSNL MTNL employees and wage revision, as per 3rd PRC is not implemented due to the affordability condition. The government conveniently forget the fact it has nothing to do with pension revision as the full liability of pensionary benefits of absorbed BSNL MTNL pensioners is to be borne by the central government. The Department of Telecommunications having been convinced of this fact had prepared an Internal Note proposing pension revision delinking wage revision and this was declared in the meeting with all the pensioners associations held on 17-10-2022 by the then Member ( Service ). The only disagreement in the meeting was the zero percent fitment proposed by DoT and after serious discussion, it was agreed to reconsider the fitment factor favourably. The file was processed accordingly and reached to near finality. Even after a PBCAT order on pension revision the former Minister of Communications, Shri. Ashwini Vaishnav had assured a reasonable settlement. But for reasons best known to themselves, the government has treacherously gone back from the assurance.

Unfortunately, the new Minister of Communications is repeating the old rhetoric of the DoT bureaucracy that pension revision is possible only after wage revision.

The government has levied pension contribution from the BSNL MTNL retirees at the maximum of their pay scales during their combined service. Moreover, their counterparts, Central Government pensioners have got their pension revision from 01-01-2016, as per 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations. During these eight years, thousands of BSNL MTNL retirees have left this world without getting their legitimate right of pension revision.

It is under these compelling situation that the Joint Forum launched a three phased agitational program. The first two phases, Demands Day on 02-07-2024, March to CCA Office on 05-09-2024 have been held most successfully throughout the country. The participation in the Jantar Mantar Dharna will be massive and unprecedented reflecting the resentment and discontentment of the retirees against the cruelty and injustice meted out to the absorbed retirees of BSNL MTNL at the fag end of their life.

We seek the support and solidarity of all the service unions, trade unions, other democratic and secular forces and the media for our struggle for justice.



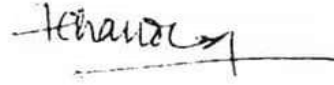
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