BSNL Pensioners' Pension Revision Delinking from Wage Revision As per 3rd P.R.C.

Now, a concept that Pension Revision for Working Employees is inevitable to have Pension Revision for Pensioners has been broken as a Gazette Notification is issued by MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS NOTIFICATION (Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare), New Delhi, the 20th December, 2021, paving a way for BSNL Pensioners' Pension Revision.

*Rule 66(1) of CCS (Pension) Rules 2021 states " The Pension authorized under rule 44 and family pension authorized under rule 50 may be revised by the government in accordance with any general order issued in implementation of decision taken on the on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions, or **otherwise, and the pension or family so revised shall thereafter** be the basic pension or basic family pension for grant of additional pension under sub-rule(5) of rule 44 or additional family pension under sub-rule (3) of the rule 50 or dearness relief under rule 52"*

We have learnt that on receipt of numerous representations from Pensioners Associations, Department of Establishment of DoT has moved few proposals for Pension Revision of BSNL Pensioners.

This is good sign for us but not a time to sit idle and watch developments as we have to keep eagle eye to ensure that it takes true turn and we are not placed on wrong track which may harm our future interest.

We are not surprised to know that AUAB; who was always requesting to have our cooperation and always demanding Pension Revision for BSNL Pensioners Pension Revision; has in its last Circular dated 28.04.2022 has omitted a demand for Pension Revision for BSNL Pensioners!!!

One of our sister organizations, on 27.04.2022 had a meeting with Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, Additional Secretary has given detailed presentation of the justification of BSNL Pensioners' Pension Revision with 15% fitment recommended by the 3rd PRC from 01.01.2017, delinking from Wage Revision of BSNL Working Employees.

The queries raised by Addl. Secretary were adequately clarified and he had assured to have his say in due course for moving the file. Shri Dileep Pandhye, Member (Finance) has also stated that issue is being examined and whatever is required from his side, he is ready to do.

Brothers, let me clarify that the issue is not simple as you all think and we will have to pass through encumber some process and deal with Govt. Machinery. There are hurdles in our way, as there is no unanimity over the issue amongst BSNL Pensioners Associations. We demand simply what 3rd PRC has recommended for fitment and our placement in corresponding pay scales recommended by it.

Surprisingly, whenever a demand is raised, a question is raised that there will be anomaly. A simple fact that this is not a new thing is conveniently ignored or place aside. Since from the adopting recommendations of 1st PRC. the issues have been always erupted and suggestions to resolved have also been shown by them. Same things have also been resolved in all CPC reports for C.G. Employees and Pensioners.

7the C.P.C. has studied, analyzed and made recommendations as per prevailing position in C.G. and it was also entrusted work to recommend for Pensioners as well and whatever they have recommended, they had in their mind for C.D.A. Pay scales and recommended fitment formula on it.

It is needless to talk of fiscal repercussions on exchequer as BSNL has already paid Pension Contribution on maximum of pay scale and sufficient fund is in store with Govt. against the said payment and in addition it is Government's written promise in agreement that even if there loss in receiving funds from BSNL for Pension Contribution, Govt. will bear all the expenditure.

We will not expect the Govt. to budge any demand to have CDA for BSNL Pensioners overlooking various judgments of Apex Court. For anomaly, those who are retiring after 01.01.2017, their pay can be fixed notionally and Cabinet Note be prepared suitably.

Our demand for fitment formula of 3rd PRC is just and legal because irrespective numbers of hurdles BSNL Pensioners have been awarded the benefits as per recommendations of 1st and 2nd PRC and to follow the same yardstick will be in the direction of natural justice.

Let us have clear say that we will not prefer any option to switchover from IDA pay scales to CDA and also pension on that line. We will always strive for continuance of IDA for BSNL Pensioners.

And for such noble cause, let us all Associations / Unions move in this direction and start new chapter of exemplarily unity amongst workers and pensioners.

Dinesh D. Mistry
General Secretary

30.04.2022

Donors List will be published in July 2022