

BSNL Pensioners Pension Revision

A Herculean task

A proverb says....

Patience pays in long run....

But how long?

We the BSNL Pensioners are eagerly awaiting our pension revision as per 3rd PRC Recommendations; which is due from 01.01.2017 and with all mental agonies we have to say that number of our pensioners have left universe without any benefit.

We were making numerous pleas to hear us alike other pensioners who are given a chance to listen them by the Pay Commissions as we were deprived of a right to have our say in the process.

At last, after six years struggle, we succeeded in our mission to have our voice heard and as a result we all the Pensioners Association were given a chance to hear our say by convening a joint meeting of all the Pensioners Associations by Member Services, DoT on 17.10.2022.

We regret to note that instead of having unanimous approach, in the meeting; some Associations considering them as claimant of guardian of pensioners put forward a demand for Pension Revision as per 7th CPC notwithstanding the fact that in the said meeting itself the Govt. had clear its stand showing its inability to accept the said demand citing numerous legal verdicts of judiciaries and we preferred to take a stand to have our demand considered as per the stand taken by the Govt. as we can ill afford our pensioners to suffer more.

Aiming to have positive united approach we took a chance to convene joint meeting of all the MTNL-BSNL Pensioners on 18.10.2022 who had; participated in discussion on 17th. Unfortunately we could not reach unanimous decision and in order to have united approach; more time was given to all to consult their counter parts and come to unanimous decision.

But ironically some of our counter parts instead of coming closer; and in order to show them that majority of Pensioners Association desire Pension Fixation as per 7th CPC, started bugle with joint signatures of some unions and declaring programs.

Thus compelled by the circumstances, we too were forced to form a second front known as "Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Association" on 18.01.2023 and submitted a Memorandum to Hon'ble MOC and Secretary, which is printed in this issue.

We have time and again discussed the issue with Members Services DoT; and we are informed that DoT desires immediate settlement of the issue and making all efforts in this direction and as a first step a decision to delink pension revision from that of working employees have been taken.

Rightly or wrongly, we have also seen that issue of Revised Pay Scales as per 3rd PRC hampers the process and it seems that taking advantage the Working Employees are delaying the process as they have apprehension that partial agreement will hamper the finalization of their demand for other allowances.

At the time of writing the information reveals that information regarding financial implications on pension revision of BSNL/MTNL pensioners has been received from CGCA in Establishment Cell of DoT and now pending in internal Finance of DoT for comments. It has collected data of likely increase in expenditure if the pension is revised 5%, 10% and 15%. Hon'ble MoC will consider a proper fitment formula for pension revision.

It appears that the proposal to finalize fitment by D.O.E will take two to three months because of expected numerous queries that are bound to be raised by D.O.E. Thereafter it will go to DOP & PW for making

appropriate amendments in Pension Rules to take care of anomalies for post 2017 retirees and other connected issues. Finally the proposal will go to ministry of law and justice for wetting of the final note to be prepared by DOT and simultaneously it will be send to DOP & PW for amendment in relevant pension rules. We hope that DOT, DOE, and Ministry of Law and Justice and Social Affairs will have very intense and close consultations so as to arrive at a consensus for preparation of final Cabinet note by DOT. All the Secretaries involved in preparation of final Cabinet note will take their respective Cabinet Ministers into full confidence.

We hope that all will go in right direction and finally DOT will prepare a Cabinet note and send it to the Cabinet Secretary for placing it before Union Cabinet for approval.

So now the herculean task before Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Association is closely monitor the process and to minimize the expected time period of three months for final decision.

We assure our Pensioners Fraternity that we will vouch safe Pensioners interest with precise care and concern and take all the necessary steps to achieve our goal.

With Republic Day Greetings,

Dinesh D. Mistry

General Secretary

