

Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Associations

JF/ AGN/ MOC- DOT/ NOTICE/2023

19th June, 2023

To

Shri. Ashwini Vaishnav
Hon'ble Minister of Communications.
Sanchar Bhawan
New Delhi -110001

Shri. K Rajaraman,
Secretary,
Department of Telecommunications,
Sanchar Bhawan,
New Delhi -110001

Sub: Notice for the three phased agitational program against the unwarranted and unjustified delay, based on completely misleading, false, fabricated and baseless grounds advocated by DOT Bureaucracy, in settlement of pension revision of BSNL/ MTNL Pensioners due from 01-01-2017. Apathy and unprecedented insensitivity of DOT towards BSNL/MTNL Pensioners has crossed all the limits.

Sir,

We are constrained to inform you that the meeting of the Joint Forum of BSNL-MTNL Pensioners Associations held on 15-06-2023, after reviewing the present status of pension revision, and false and misleading narratives propagated by DOT enumerated below, to deny our legitimate demand of Pension Revision, has decided to launch a three phased agitational program under most compelling circumstances.

The Joint Forum of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners Associations consisting 8 BSNL and MTNL Pensioners Associations, has exhausted all rational means to impress and convince DOT bureaucrats on basis of irrefutable facts to settle most burning and crucial issue of pension revision amicably through discussion/ negotiation. But, Sir, the negative and perverse approach of DoT, rather willful attempts to defeat the settlement of the issue of 5 lakh Pensioners of BSNL/ MTNL pending for the last seven years during which thousands and thousands of Pensioners died without getting their Pension Revision simply due to ruthless, merciless and pathetic attitude Of DoT.

On 17th October, 2022, Dr. Mahesh Shukla, then Member (Services) emphatically informed 17 Associations of BSNL/ MTNL Pensioners that finally Pension Revision has been delinked from Wage Revision. And his offer of zero percent fitment was stoutly rejected by all the Pensioners Associations in one voice. At last the Member (Services) had assured a revised fitment proposal will be mooted in consultation with Secretary DoT and Hon'ble MOC. Thereafter it took about four months to calculate the financial implications of 5, 10 and 15% fitments.

When the Joint Forum representatives met Shri. Uma Shankar Pandey, Member (S) on 21- 03 - 2023, we were told that all the internal consultations are over and final decision on fitment will be taken in the meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Communications which is expected to be held in the first week of 2023.

Hon Sir four false, misleading and fabricated grounds advocated by DOT to defeat our legitimate demand of 15% fitment for Pension Revision in accordance to recommendations of 3rd PRC are mentioned below.

- A. First fallacious and misleading narrative being widely propagated is that Pensioners of BSNL/ MTNL are drawing already Pension more in IDA scales than their counterparts in Central Govt in CDA scales. This is quite natural since IDA scales formulated by DPE and approved by the Union Cabinet for CPSUs are much higher than CDA scales. We obediently and in disciplined manner took absorption in BSNL/ MTNL in IDA scales, based on the decision and concrete assurance of the Union Cabinet in the year 2000, not of our volition, that we will be fully treated at par with Central Govt. Employees and that our Pension would be paid by the Govt. in terms of then 1972 CCS Pension Rules. So why this baseless narrative is being propagated all over to mislead everyone, including your Hon Self that we are drawing Pension more than Central Govt Pensioners which is obvious based on above stated facts.**
- B. Second baseless and untenable narrative being propagated is that huge financial implications will accrue on the Govt. by extending 15% fitment for our Pension Revision. Where and on what basis does question of financial implications arise for the Govt. since all through we have paid Pension Contribution on the maximum of IDA scales and this contribution is three times more than the Pension Contribution paid by Central Govt Employees on their actual CDA scales(not on maximum). Other liabilities that BSNL/ MTNL may have are for different reasons. How and on what basis these liabilities are linked to our Pension Revision when we have met this liability on the Govt. in its totality.**
- C. The extent to which DOT can go to mislead can be easily concluded from the fact that they falsely misled everyone, including your Hon Self, that by extending 0% fitment, Pension Increase for everyone would be around 10%. Hon Sir, based on hard facts, by giving 0% fitment, hardly 1 to 2 % of Pensioners get any increase and out of the remaining 98% ,some may get paltry increase , and a good number may draw minus . Based on this fact (that 1 to 2 % of Pensioners who are at beginning of their scales), DOT misled everyone, including your Hon Self by building a totally false narrative that everyone will get an increase of about 10% by extending 0% fitment. This unambiguously and without any doubt fully establishes the intentions of DOT that it can go to any extent to deny us our legitimate 15% fitment. We are astonished as to how can they muster courage to misled even your Hon Self by propagating that 0% fitment gives 10% increase in Pension to all the Pensioners.**

The Hon'ble Minister of Communications had also assured to the various delegations that pension revision will be settled with reasonable fitment very soon.

As you are aware, this issue is pending unresolved for about 78 months. Another three months have passed and nothing worthwhile has happened. It is nothing but sheer negligence and cruelty

towards the senior pensioners. So the BSNL/ MTNL pensioners have become restive and distressed against the unjust and wilful delay in settling the issue. In these circumstances we are compelled to resort to agitational path. We hereby give notice for three phased program of struggle.

DEMAND.

Pension revision of BSNL/ MTNL absorbed Pensioners from 01-01-2017 with 15% fitment as per 3rd PRC, delinking wage revision.

AGITATIONAL PROGRAM.

1. **BLACK DAY- 06-07-2023.Demonstration at all levels with Mass Letter Campaign to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications**
2. **DHARNA AT DISTRICT LEVEL AND CCA OFFICES - 31-07-2023.**
3. **FIVE DAYS DHARNA AT JANTAR MANTAR, NEW DELHI - 21st TO 25th AUGUST 2023.**

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,



(K G Jayaraj)
General Secretary
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