

# Presenting Facts as Such and Appealing DOT

The pension revision is in the cross road, we do not know in which direction it goes further.

There are pulls on equal side. With the support and the tool of PBCAT direction to settle the issue of pension revision, some of the associations are pressing 7th CPC and contempt.

The counter pull is from DOT which takes up the case to Delhi HC, placing its argument of citing how the previous 2007 revision was done and so pension revision is not possible without pay revision. It is felt by DOT that the PBCAT position is not compatible with the existing rules and practices. They want stay to PBCAT judgment and also need of it to be quashed.

Four questions are here. All the questions and their answers are interlinked.

Are they never going to do any pay revision to BSNL employees?

Whether pension revision is not at all possible in the absence of pay revision?

The third one is if possible, what is the methodology - 7th CPC or 3rd PRC?

The fourth one is how to settle the anomaly between those pre and post 2017, as the demand is 'pension revision from 1-1-2017 for the pre 2017 pensioners.

Associations and DOT both are suppressing one factor in their legal battle for obvious suitable reasons of their own, the minutes of the meeting held on Oct 2022 and the signed note sheet of various levels of officers including secretary telecom just previous to that meeting period.

In that meeting and the said note sheet, DOT agreed to consider pension revision in the absence of pay revision on 3rd PRC scales, but with zero percent fitment. In that note sheet , solutions were placed for all the three questions raised above, barring the first one of BSNL Pay Revision.

But the associations differed on contentions. All took position in negating zero percent fitment. Some associations already gone to PBCAT refused to accept anything as per 3rd PRC and demanded as per 7th CPC.

And so now we are all in the dead end, waiting in the verandas of court rooms.

The psychology of almost all the pensioners is that they want pension revision somehow, as they have been eagerly expecting it for the last 7 years. The methodology is the headache of some leaders and officers of DOT.

DOT may feel about rules and practices and cannot apply any ego. Applying ego is not the grammar of any rule abiding administration. Associations also need not have any ego as a collective entity, but some leaders may have ego and they push it and translate it as an organisational ego. Their only rupture starts.

In this scenario DOT can reveal its mind in three ways for amicable settlement, convincing the Delhi HC the impracticability of applying 7th CPC w.e.f 1-1-2016 as BSNL absorbed are combined service pensioners, and it leads greater anomaly to post 2016 retirees.

They can again openly present the position taken by them in the Oct 17 th 2022 meet and as per the said note sheet in the court , pleading possible fitment between 5 to 15 % as that of PRC.

They can convince the Delhi Court, by this via media solution in the absence of pay revision.

The third way is, allowing BSNL to settle pay revision with the fitment in the range in between 5 to 15 % and thereby settling pension revision by DOT simultaneously. No court will deny or intervene in any administrative mechanism of settling the case for the benefit of the so called victims, here the pre 2017 pensioners and post 2017 pensioners.

Pensioners cannot take a position not to repose any faith on DOT and DOT should also not to suppress its earlier position taken to settle the issue, even in the absence of pay revision.

3-8-2024 R. Pattabiraman