BSNL & DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION (INDIA)
CENTRAL HEAD QUARTER, AHMEDABAD - 380 001.
(Registered under Indian Trade Union Act 1926. Regn No.G-6456)
(Affiliated to Bharat Pensioners Samaj, New Delhi)
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Thomas John K
All India President
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General Secretary

NO. BDPA(I)/PEN-RVSN/3rd PRC2026/APPEAL **Dated 14th September, 2026**

To
Hon'ble Shri Narendrabhai Modi Ji
Prime Minister of India
South Block, New Delhi-110001

Sub: Request for one-time relaxation / special dispensation from the "Affordability / PBT" condition for revision of pension of absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2017 – a humble appeal to delink pensioners' livelihood from the present financial performance of BSNL

Ref: Our earlier representation dated 1st August, 2026 regarding long-pending revision of pension of absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2017.

Most Honoured Shri Narendrabhai Modi Ji,
Jay Shri Krishna, Jay Ambe,

1. We respectfully approach your good office once again on an issue which has now acquired not merely an administrative or financial character, but a deeply **human dimension**.2.
2. The pension of absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners has remained without the desired revision w.e.f. **01.01.2017**. These pensioners rendered long years of service to the Department of Telecommunications and thereafter to BSNL/MTNL. They have already completed their service and are now in the evening of their lives.
3. We fully appreciate the Government's concern for financial discipline and the need to ensure the financial sustainability of BSNL. At the same time, we earnestly submit that the present financial position of BSNL should not indefinitely determine the pensionary income of persons who have already retired after rendering their service.
4. Our humble request is therefore for a **one-time policy decision / special dispensation**, so that pension revision of eligible absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners may be considered **delinked from the present profitability/PBT condition of BSNL**.

1. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE "PBT" CONDITION?

The term **PBT means "Profit Before Tax."**

1. The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), while issuing the guidelines for the Third Pay Revision w.e.f. 01.01.2017, prescribed an affordability condition under which the additional financial impact of the revised pay package for Board-level and below Board-level executives and non-unionised supervisors of CPSEs should not exceed **20% of the average PBT of the preceding three financial years**.
2. Thus, the formulation of the affordability test is intrinsically connected with the **additional financial impact of a revised pay package**.

We respectfully submit that this gives rise to a fundamental question:

Can a financial yardstick designed to determine the affordability of present pay revision continue indefinitely as the determining factor for the pension of persons who have already retired?
That is the issue which, with utmost respect, requires reconsideration.

2. THE FUTILITY OF CONVERTING AN "AFFORDABILITY" SAFEGUARD INTO AN INDEFINITE PENSION BARRIER:

1. There is a further financial consideration which deserves the attention of the Government.
2. Under the established pension framework applicable to eligible absorbed BSNL employees, the Government of India bears the pensionary liability under the applicable provisions, while BSNL is required to make the prescribed pension contribution to the Government on account of such liability.
3. Therefore, the financial implications of pension revision deserve to be examined in the context of the **existing pension contribution and Government pension-liability framework**, rather than treating the entire consequence of pension revision as though it were identical to a fresh pay revision for serving employees.

There is also an important distinction in the general Government pension framework.

1. **Pension contribution is related to the pay actually drawn by an employee; it is not merely a contribution calculated on the hypothetical maximum of a pay scale which the employee may never have reached.**
2. This distinction deserves consideration while examining the financial implications of pension revision.
3. If pension-related contributions have already been made during service in accordance with the applicable provisions, and the Government has already accepted the corresponding pensionary liability under the established framework, the financial effect of subsequent pension revision should logically be assessed after taking into account the **contributions already made and the pre-existing Government liability**.
4. It should not automatically be equated with the financial impact of a fresh revision of pay for serving employees.

This distinction is fundamental.

Pay is remuneration for present service.
Pension is the financial consequence of past service.

1. The pensioner has no control whatsoever over the present profitability, losses, expenditure, tariff structure, market position or commercial performance of BSNL.
2. He has already rendered his service.
3. He has already earned his pension.
4. The pension contribution mechanism has already operated during his service.

Therefore, to continue applying the present profitability/PBT test as an indefinite barrier to pension revision effectively makes the pensioner bear the consequences of the financial circumstances of an organization over which he has absolutely no control.

We respectfully submit that this deserves reconsideration both **financially and humanely**.

A financial yardstick meant for determining the affordability of present pay should not become a permanent yardstick for determining the dignity of past service.

3. THE PRESENT POSITION OF BSNL ITSELF DESERVES TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT:

1. There is another significant development which, with utmost respect, deserves consideration.
2. The **Pay Revision proposal for serving BSNL employees has now been finalized at the Corporate Office level and an agreement has been signed.** It is further understood that the CMD, BSNL has specifically indicated that, in the present financial scenario, **BSNL is in a position to bear the additional financial implication arising from the pay revision.**
3. The proposal is now understood to be under consideration at the level of the **Department of Telecommunications**.
4. If the present financial assessment of BSNL itself is that the organization is in a position to bear the additional financial implication of revised remuneration for its **serving employees**, this development provides a fresh and important context in which the long-pending issue of pension revision of its **retired employees** may also be examined.

The two situations are, however, fundamentally different.

1. **Serving employees receive remuneration for continuing service.**
2. **Pensioners receive pension as the financial consequence of service already rendered.**

We therefore respectfully submit that the present development concerning pay revision of serving employees should be considered together with the long-pending issue of pension revision, so that the Government may arrive at a **fair, comprehensive and humane solution**.

A clearance at this stage from the highest level can remove the remaining impediment and bring long-awaited relief and dignity to thousands of elderly BSNL/MTNL pensioners.

4. BSNL IS NOT JUST ANOTHER COMMERCIAL TELECOM COMPANY:

We respectfully request the Government to consider the special circumstances of BSNL.

1. BSNL was created as a 100% Government-Owned Public Sector Telecommunications Organization carrying forward the enormous infrastructure, responsibilities and public-service obligations of the former Department of Telecommunications.
2. Its employees and pensioners did not choose the subsequent commercial circumstances of BSNL.
3. They served when Telecommunications was essentially a **public service and a national responsibility**, often under difficult conditions and with limited resources.
4. Many of today's pensioners spent the most productive decades of their lives building and maintaining the Country's Telecommunications Network.

Therefore, while BSNL's commercial viability is unquestionably important for the future of the organization, **the pensionary rights and livelihood of those who have already completed their service deserve to be examined on a different plane.**

5. THE PENSIONER CANNOT BE MADE RESPONSIBLE FOR BSNL'S PRESENT FINANCIAL POSITION:

The present pensioners:

- did not determine BSNL's tariff policies;
- did not determine its investment decisions;
- did not determine its debt position;
- did not determine its market strategy;
- did not determine its expenditure; and
- have no control over its present profitability or losses.

1. Yet they continue to face the consequences of these factors through a pension which has remained without the desired revision from **01.01.2017**.
2. Is it fair that an elderly pensioner, who completed his service years ago, should continue to be judged by the present PBT of the organization?

*We respectfully submit that **the answer should be no.***

6. THIS IS NOT A DEMAND FOR AN UNCONTROLLED FINANCIAL CONCESSION:

1. We wish to make our position absolutely clear.
2. We are **not** asking the Government to disregard financial discipline.
3. We are **not** asking for an open-ended financial commitment without examination.
4. *We are requesting a **one-time special dispensation** in respect of pensioners who have already completed their service and whose pension revision has remained pending from 01.01.2017*.

What we respectfully seek is a **policy window, not an abandonment of financial discipline.**

7. LET US LOOK AT THE HUMAN SIDE:

1. Sir, these are not merely figures in a Government file.
2. **Behind every pension number is an elderly human being who has already spent the most productive years of his or her life in service to the nation.**
3. A pensioner who retired at the age of 60 has now crossed 70 years of age. After more than nine years of waiting since **01.01.2017**, virtually none of the pensioners belonging to this category is now below 70. A substantial majority are well above 70, while many have entered their 80s and some are even older.
4. For them, the passage of time is not merely an administrative delay. **It represents a rapidly diminishing period of their remaining life during which they hope to receive the benefit of the pension revision they have been legitimately awaiting.**
5. At this advanced age, medical expenditure has increased enormously. The cost of medicines, healthcare, food, electricity and other essential requirements has risen substantially. Household expenses have likewise increased, while the purchasing power of their existing pension has steadily diminished.
6. Unlike serving employees, pensioners have no opportunity for promotions, future increments or career progression to improve their income. **Their pension is their principal financial support and, for many, their only dependable source of livelihood.**

This is why we earnestly request that the matter be viewed not merely through the prism of **PBT and financial accounting**, but also through the larger principles of **social justice, fairness and human dignity**.

For a pensioner, every year of delay is not merely a year in a file. It is a year of his remaining life.

8. OUR HUMBLE APPEAL:

1. Sir, pensioners have spent the best part of their lives serving the nation.
2. They are **not seeking charity**.
3. They are seeking a fair and reasonable revision of the pension which sustains them in their old age.
4. They have waited since **01.01.2017**.
5. The passage of time is particularly significant in the case of elderly pensioners. Every further year of delay means that some of those who have been waiting may never live to see the benefit.

We therefore earnestly appeal to your good office to kindly consider this matter as a **special humanitarian and policy issue**, and to provide a one-time relaxation/special dispensation so that pension revision of eligible absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners may be taken forward without making their livelihood dependent upon the present PBT position of BSNL.

1. **We are not asking the Government to ignore financial discipline.**
2. **We are asking that financial discipline should not become an indefinite denial of justice to those who have already completed their service.**
3. **Let the affordability test measure the affordability of present pay — not the dignity of past service.**

A decision at this stage by the Hon'ble Prime Minister would remove the remaining impediment and bring a long-awaited blessing of relief, dignity and justice to thousands of elderly pensioners.

We remain confident that under your compassionate and responsive leadership, a humane and equitable solution will be found.

With profound respect and hope,
Yours Sincerely,

(D. D. MISTRY)
General Secretary.
Encl.: Copy of our earlier representation dated 01.08.2026 regarding revision of pension of absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2017.

1. Hon'ble Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for Communications, New Delhi
2. Shri Amit Agarwal. IAS, Secretary, DoT, New Delhi
3. Shri Avinash Rajpur, Secretary General, BPS, New Delhi