

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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Central Head Quarters

P. Abhimanyu General Secretary Main Recognised Representative Union.

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BSNLEU/332 (UP.E)

18.05.2022

To,

Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001

Sir,

Sub: - <u>Unlawful recovery made from the exgratia payment of 17 VRS retirees of Sultanpur SSA - reg.</u>

We wish to bring the following to your kind notice, for favour of information and immediate intervention.

It has been brought to our notice that, unjustified penal interest has been recovered from 17 Non-Executives belonging to Sultanpur SSA and who had since retired under VRS-2019. All these 17 Non-Executives had taken House Building Advance from the Organisation. It is important to state that, all these 17 officials had already repaid the HBA that they had taken, together with interest.

It is disturbing to note that, penal interest has been recovered from the exgratia payment of all these 17 VRS retirees. This penal interest has been recovered on the grounds that, these officials had not taken insurance coverage, for the HBA amount that they had taken. It is needless to state that, the insurance, which has to be compulsorily taken by the employees who avail HBA, is meant to cover any damage that might be caused to the building due to fire, flood, etc. If any employee had not taken the insurance coverage, action should have been taken against them by the Management, at that time itself.

However, in the Sultanpur case, no action was taken by the Management, when the officials failed to take the insurance coverage. It is nothing but funny to note that, action is being taken, when the officials had already repaid the HBA amount, together with the interest. This recovery of penal interest, from the exgratia amount of the VRS optees, is most unjustified and illogical.

It is also relevant to mention here that, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had given a categorical order, directing that, excess payments or wrongful payments of the past, should not be recovered from Class-III and Class-IV employees and also from retired employees. The action of the Sultanpur Management, recovering penal interest from the exgratia amount of the employees who have retired under VRS, is nothing but total violation of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In view of the foregoing, we request you to kindly get the matter examined and cause to issue necessary instruction to the UP(East) circle administration, for the early repayment of the amount recovered from the aforementioned 17 retired employees of Sultanpur SSA.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

[P. Abhimanyu]
General Secretary

Copy to: (1) Shri Arvind Vadnerkar, Director (HR), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001

(2) Ms. Yojana Das, Director (Finance), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001