

On Wage Revision from 1.1.2017

This 8th All India Conference of BSNL Employees Union held at Chennai from 31.12.2016 to 3.1.2017 strongly condemns the negative attitude of the Government on the issue of wage revision for Central Government Employees from 1.1.2016 and wage revision for PSU employees from 1.1.2017.

The 7th Pay Commission has recommended lowest increase of 14.29% on pay plus DA and the Government implemented it, assuring on 30.6.2016 that the Committee appointed to consider increasing this fitment benefit would submit its report with in 4 months. It also assured to consider the second option recommended by 7th Pay Commission on pension revision. But the Government has not implemented these assurances, although the 4 month period was over by the end of October 2016. On the other hand the HRA is not revised for Central Government Employees and it is being paid on old rates on old pay. The Confederation of Central Government Employees has given call for one day strike on 15.2.2017 against this negative attitude of the Government.

The 3rd PRC appointed for revising the wages of the executives of Central PSUs including BSNL has submitted its report, but the DPE is not yet allowed to release this report. But the meagre increase granted by 7 th Pay Commission indicates that the 3rd PRC also might have recommended accordingly. The guideline of affordability imposed by the Government on the 3rd PRC indicates the intention of the Government to grant negligible increase or no increase to the Employees of the loss making PSUs. Also, inspite of our demand since a long time, the Government is not prepared to revise pension automatically along with wage revision, making it compulsory that the pension revision should get Cabinet approval every time.

Due to the united struggles of the Unions and Associations against the anti PSU policies of the Government and due to the extension of better service to the customers by implementing programs like Service With A Smile, operational profit of BSNL was increased from Rs 672 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 3378 crore in 2015-16 and the net loss was reduced from Rs 8234 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 3880 crore in 2015-16. In spite of this improvement, the Government will try to make all efforts to deny justified wage revision to BSNL Employees.

The demand of our Union for constituting a joint committee for negotiation on wage revision is not yet accepted by the BSNL management on the plea that the DPE has not yet issued the guidelines on wage negotiation for non-executives. It appointed a truncated committee of some officers, without representatives of the recognised unions, to study the issues connected with wage revision.

All these facts indicate that it is necessary to unite all and organise a serious struggle for achieving a better wage revision and pension revision from 1.1.2017. This Conference directs the CHQ of the BSNL Employees Union to take necessary initiatives for organising such a united struggle and appeals all non-executives to prepare for such a serious struggle.
