

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

Recognised Union in BSNL

(Registered Under Indian Trade Union Act 1926. Regn.No.4896)

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BSNLEU/413/ (PENSION)

21.08.2018

To

Shri Piyush Goyal ji,
Hon'ble Finance Minister,
Government of India,
Office of the Finance Minister,
North Block,
New Delhi - 110001

Respected sir,

Sub: - Seeking settlement of the long pending dispute on payment of pension contribution by BSNL - reg.

We fervently seek your kind intervention in the long pending dispute pertaining to payment of pension contribution by BSNL.

As per the decision of the Government of India, the employees of the Department of Telecommunications, who retired after their absorption in BSNL in the year 2000, are being paid Government of India pension, as per the provisions contained in Rule 37-A of the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. A copy of the letter of the Department of Telecommunications on the subject is enclosed for your kind reference. BSNL is making payment of pension contribution to the Government of India, in respect of the DoT employees, who are permanently absorbed in BSNL.

However, excess money is being collected from BSNL on account of pension contribution. As per the recommendations of the 6th Central Pay Commission, pension contribution is being collected for the entire Central Government Employees, based on their actual basic pay (Pay in the Pay Band plus Grade Pay) only. It is needless to state that this is the decision of the Government of India.

Whereas, in the case of the DoT employees who are permanently absorbed in BSNL, still pension contribution is being collected based on the maximum of their payscales. As a result of this, BSNL is being forced to pay excess amount, by way of pension contribution. It is needless to state that this is affecting the Company's financial position.

Both the BSNL pensioners and the pensioners of Government of India are covered by the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. As such, the pension contribution to be remitted in respect of both these sections of employees, should also be the same. BSNL Employees Union, as well as the All Unions and Associations of BSNL, are continuously raising this issue with the DoT. However, DoT is maintaining that the demand for calculation of pension contribution from BSNL, based on the actual basic pay, is not conceded by the Ministry of Finance. A copy of such reply, given by the DoT vide its letter no.7-45/2008/TA-I/409-433 dated 01.03.2012, is enclosed for your kind reference. As a result, still pension contribution is being collected from BSNL, based on the maximum of the payscales of the employees.

In this connection, it is very pertinent to state that, pension contribution in respect of the employees of the Department of Telecommunications, who are presently working in BSNL on deputation, is being collected based on the actual basic pay. Further, the MTNL employees are also covered by the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. The MTNL retirees are getting Government of India pension. It is very important to state that pension contribution in respect of MTNL employees, is being collected based on the actual basic pay. Hence, it is a very big discrimination that pension contribution, in respect of BSNL employees, is being collected based on the maximum of their pay scales.

A serious offshoot of this wrong method of calculation of pension contribution in respect of BSNL employees, is the problem of stagnation, being faced by almost 90% of BSNL employees in the lower categories of Regular Mazdoor, Group 'D', etc. This is because, in the last Wage Revision, the Management had kept the maximum of the payscales of the employees as low as possible, with a view to lessen the burden of pension contribution, to be paid to the government. As a result of this, an abnormally large number of employees have reached the maximum of their payscales, and are suffering from the problem of stagnation. They do not get their annual increment every year.

In view of the foregoing, we fervently request you sir, to kindly intervene in this matter, and to ensure that the payment of pension contribution from BSNL is collected based on the actual basic pay, as is being done in the case of the Central Government employees and MTNL employees. This help by the Ministry of Finance will go a long way in financially, in lessening the financial burden of BSNL, and will also help to resolve the problem of stagnation at least in the forthcoming wage revision in BSNL.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



[P. Abhimanyu]
General Secretary,

Encl: As above.

Copy to: (1) Shri Pon Radhakrishnan ji, Hon'ble Minister of State (Finance & Shipping), Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
(2) Shri Manoj Sinha ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
(3) Shri Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Minister of Finance, New Delhi - 110001
(4) Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, DoT, Ministry of Communications, Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi-110 001.
(5) Shri Anupam Shrivastava, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001.