

### **Vellore District Conference held enthusiastically.**

5th biennial District Conference of Vellore was held on 07-08-2024 with massive participation of pensioners. Com.C Gnanasekaran, District President presided over the conference. Com.V Elumalai, District Secretary welcomed all the participants. Com.C K Narasimhan, Circle President and State Convenor of NCCPA inaugurated the conference. Shri. Srikumar, Principal General Manager, BSNL, Vellore and other officers felicitated the conference. Com.R Rajasekar, Circle Secretary delivered the keynote address and explained the issues and the ongoing struggles. Com.S Marimuthu, District Secretary, BSNLEU also addressed the conference.

In the delegates session, Com.V Elumalai, District Secretary and Com.P Sreedharan, Treasurer presented the report and audited accounts, respectively. Both the report and accounts were adopted after discussion. In the unanimous election of office bearers, Coms. C Gnanasekaran, P Murugan and P Loganathan were elected President, District Secretary and Treasurer. More than 350 comrades including 50 women comrades participated in the conference. The conference was concluded with vote of thanks by Com.P Sreedharan, Asst.District Secretary.

### **Salem District Conference held on 26-07-2024.**

Salem District Conference held on 26-07-2024 at YMCA hall, Salem reflected the growth of the district branch with massive participation. It is worth mentioning that a good number of women comrades also graced with their presence on the occasion. Com.M Mathiazhagan, District President was in the chair. Com. SAzhagiriswami, ADS welcomed the participants.

Com.R Rajasekar, Circle Secretary inaugurated the conference with a detailed and spirited speech covering all the issues, particularly the agitational programme being launched by the Joint Forum on pension revision and separate agitation by NCCPA. Coms. N Kuppusamy, Circle Vice President, E Gopal, District Secretary, BSNLEU, R Manoharan (SNPWA), N Shanmugam (NCCPA) and a host of leaders addressed. The biennial report and audited

accounts presented by Com. S Tamilmani, District Secretary and Com. K M Selvaraj, Assistant Treasurer, respectively were adopted after discussion.

In the unanimous election of office bearers held thereafter, Com.M Mathiazhagan (President), Com.S Tamilmani (District Secretary) and Com. P Thankaraj (Treasurer) are the important functionaries.

### **UP (West)**

#### **UP(West) Circle Executive Committee meeting.**

Circle Executive Committee meeting of Uttar Pradesh (West) Circle was held successfully on 10-08-2024. Com.Mohamad Israel, Circle President presided. Com.Naresh Pal, Circle Secretary welcomed all the participants. Coms.Sukhvir Singh, CHQ Vice President, BSNLEU, Ramswaroop Singh, CHQ Organising Secretary, AIBDPA, Ansar Ali, Circle President, BSNLEU and ACS, AIBDPA addressed the CEC. Thereafter Com.Naresh Pal, Circle Secretary and Com.Ganga Singh, Circle Treasurer submitted the report and accounts, respectively and were adopted after active discussion by all the District Secretaries and most of the Circle Office bearers. The meeting decided to make the agitational programs of both Joint Forum and NCCPA successful.

### **West Bengal**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Kolkata Telecom District Conference .**

The 6th District Conference of Kolkata Telecom (West Bengal Circle) was held on 08-09-2024 at Tarakeswar Telephone Exchange, Kolkata. Com.Animesh Mitra, President, BSNLEU CHQ inaugurated the conference with an encouraging speech covering almost all the issues. Com.Asis Das, Circle Secretary delivered the keynote address. Coms.Sujoy Sarkar, Circle Secretary, BSNLEU also addressed. Com.Dasboxi presided over the conference. The report and audited accounts presented by Coms. Niranjana Sarkar, District Secretary and Ashish Gupta, Treasurer respectively were adopted after discussion.

The following are the important functionaries elected unanimously; Com.Ramprasad Datta (President) Com.Niranjana Sarkar (District Secretary) Com.Ashish Gupta (Treasurer).



## Letters to Government & BSNL.

### **Memorandum on CGHS / RELHS & Medical related problems.**

AIBDPA / CGHS/Memorandum/2024 dated 29th July, 2024 to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Minister, Health & Welfare, Hon'ble Railway Minister, the Cabinet Secretary and the Director General, CGHS]

The National Coordination Committee of Pensioners Associations and its affiliated Associations are submitting this memorandum on CGHS and RELHS related issues as well as other important health related problems seeking your personal intervention for ameliorating the under mentioned long pending issues. The under mentioned important health issues also require to be attended to by the Government on war footing:

- 1. Linkage of CGHS Cards with ABHA:-** We are much thankful to the recent OM F.Number 44/88/MCTC/CGHS/2024/DIR Dated 25.06.2024 that kept in abeyance the OM No.Z.15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS dated 28.03.2024 that wanted the linkage of CGHS cards with ABHA mandatory. No Pensioner's Association is happy that the Government wanted to link both compulsorily. The apprehension of all Pensioners Associations effected by CGHS and RELHS are that tomorrow the beneficiaries might be referred only to the Government Hospitals attached to ABHA. But the Government has kept the OM only in abeyance and not altogether cancelled the mandatory linkage. NCCPA and all its Affiliates urge the Government and the Health Ministry to cancel permanently any such mandatory linkage of CGHS and ABHA instead of keeping the move in abeyance.
- 2. Timely Recruitment of Specialists / Doctors / Para Medical Staff / and other staff in CGHS and RELHS medical systems:-** The recruitment process in CGHS of the Doctors and Specialist Doctors and Para-Medical Staff and other staff is not proper to keep even the skeleton strength intact. Most of the time the Wellness Centers are working with shortage of above staff and always there is shortage in CGHS Wellness centers. Similarly hospitals are being closed down in RELHS because of this shortage and blame is thrown on the condition of

dilapidation in the RELHS hospital buildings. For example, the famous Howrah Orthopedic Hospital was closed down in the name of dilapidated condition but nothing was done either to repair the building in time or recruit sufficient Doctors and other staff. Our request is timely recruitment of all Staff in CGHS and RELHS hospitals and wellness centers be made and timely repairs are undertaken so that the hospitals need not be forced to vacate are kept in good condition.

- 3. Supply of all medicines prescribed at one go:-** At present both the CGHS Wellness Centers and Railway Hospitals under RELHS are not in the habit of supplying all the prescribed medicines. In CGHS the beneficiaries are asked to come again after two or three days to receive some medicines purchased under 'LP' (Local Purchase). In RELHS the beneficiaries are not only not given all medicines but asked to purchase from outside medical shops without any reimbursement by the Railways. On many occasions LP medicines also not supplied by the local supplier in CGHS and the beneficiaries are compelled for re-entry of same medicines or the substitutes and to wait for another 2/3 days. The practice by both CGHS and RELHS are tormenting the senior citizens. Our earnest request is that the practice of not stockpiling enough drugs in the CGHS Wellness Centers and RELHS Hospitals should be stopped forthwith and the practice of distributing all medicines prescribed by the Doctors at one go should be resorted to.
- 4. Establishing the CGHS Wellness Centers in all States and Districts:-** The Government is not coming forward to open wellness centers in all States and Districts of the country in the name of limitations of funds and justification. We point out that the angle of the Government is utterly wrong, The



North Eastern States are having only the Guwahati City covered with CGHS Wellness Centers and all other states are forced to travel in the hilly terrain with their diseases in their old age. While the talk of the Government is UHC (Universal Health Coverage) the refusal to open the wellness centers in all States and Districts but asking the beneficiaries to travel longer is contradictory and unjustified. Government should open the CGHS Wellness Centers in all States and District Centers or earmark one reputed private hospital in each District for the beneficiaries of that district to go and take treatment unhindered. This is the only way that all including the RELHS Beneficiaries can take treatment otherwise there is no benefit of linking the CGHS for the RELHS beneficiaries also through the recent circular of Railways. Opening Additional Director Offices in all States and in every newly created Revenue States and opening Wellness Centers in all States and Districts is requested from the Government by us.

5. **Total Cashless treatment in CGHS:-** NCCPA and its Affiliates request for ensuring a total Cashless treatment for pensioners beneficiaries in all empanelled hospitals. As on date in many empanelled hospitals pensioner beneficiaries for inpatient treatment are asked to deposit / claim extra amount for selected specialist Doctors working in the said empanelled hospitals particularly in surgery cases and extra charges for operation accessories / medicines and for emergency OPD treatment also required for payment. Many Pensioners are unable to pay anything extra from their pockets. This practice should be stopped to ensure total cashless treatment in all empaneled hospitals. NCCPA and Affiliates request the Government to strictly order ensuring this total cashless treatment.
6. **Periodic revision of Cost of treatment and diagnostic tests:** - The empanelled hospitals and the diagnostic centers are wriggling out of the empanelled list at present because the rates were fixed long back in 2014. Cost of many treatments and

diagnostic tests have gone up during the past 10 years and the corona had boosted the rates of private hospitals. The policy of Government also encourages privatization of health services and the double standard of the Health Ministry in encouraging the privatization and not revising the rates of CGHS which is dependent on private hospitals is working against the interests of senior citizen pensioners and family pensioners in both CGHS and RELHS systems.

The recent efforts to revise the rates by the Government is welcome but there must be periodic upward revision to commensurate with the prevailing rates and a machinery should be set up with all the stakeholders present for this purpose. We request that the policy of privatization be given up by the Government or come forward to set up such a machinery for periodic revision so that no private hospitals can wriggle out of the empanelled lists and all the Pensioners and Family Pensioners in CGHS and RELHS are given treatment without any hurdles.

7. **Medical Treatment to the retirees of Autonomous / Statutory bodies:** The relatively small number of retirees of Autonomous / Statutory bodies are neither allowed any medical treatment through CGHS or allowed medical treatment under CS MA Rules 1944 like the serving employees. Allowing only the retirees who worked in CGHS areas while in service and denying the facility to others retired in non-CGHS areas is unfair. The fundamental right of all to medical treatment is denied to these retired employees and expecting them to manage all their medical needs within the meager 1000/- FMA is totally incorrect. The Government should come forward to allow them in CGHS after retirement or allow them to continue under CSMA Rules.
8. **Medical issue of National Institute of Ayurveda of Jaipur Retirees:** - The staff of NIA are covered under CS(MA)Rules 1944 for their medical needs. Neither the employees nor the Retirees are attached with



CGHS so far. But the Retirees are paid pension as per CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 only. For internal as well outpatient treatment no facility is available to the Pensioners of the NIA Jaipur. There are many judgments of the Courts of the land and the intention of the Government also is not supposedly against provision of medical needs to the Pensioners. But practically the Pensioners of NIA Jaipur are not given inpatient treatment by attaching them to CGHS nor given for any outpatient treatment through FMA, even though the Pensioners are covered under CCS Pension Rules 1972. The FMA quantum is treated as part of the Pension only and non-grant of FMA to NIA Jaipur Pensioners even though they are not attached to CGHS means a clear violation of law. This is a sheer anomaly and needs to be corrected.

**9. Entitlement of Wards:** The Government has revised the entitlement of wards in inpatient treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries based on the revised salary structure. But the beneficiaries of CGHS are not extended this facility but only the post-2006 retirees were extended this benefit. NCCPA insists this is unjustified as while the CGHS revised rates are applied to all irrespective of the year of recruitment of the beneficiaries, the benefit towards ward entitlement should also be applied to all by their notional wage structure. The denial by the Government should be withdrawn and the facility based on notional pay structure in 7th Pay Matrix should be applied to all beneficiaries.

**10. Enhancement of Fixed Medical Allowance:** - The FMA fixed long back and the quantum is quite insufficient to the medical outpatient needs. The 7th CPC also did not recommend any upward revision of FMA due to the Government's stand. But the recent recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee to enhance the FMA to 3000/- per mensem due to escalated cost of treatment and medicines are to be properly considered by the Government. The consulting fees of the doctor and the cost of medicines in medical shops have gone up

and the quantum at present distributed by the Government is quite inadequate.

**11. Bank Pensioners Medical Needs:** - Bank Pensioners have been discriminated against the Bank Employees for long. While the Bank Employees are given full medical treatment free of cost at the expenses of the Banks, the retired are expected to pay heavily towards the Insurance of Medicare to them. Nearly one month Pension is expected to be the premium of Medical Insurance per year to the Bank Pensioners. Every year this amount is to be remitted towards this insurance premium whereas the Bank Employees are given the treatment free of cost. The CGHS of course is collecting money for all (both employees and pensioners) but the amount of recovery from the retired is not every year but onetime payment equal to 10 years based on the Grade Pay of the retired. The total quantum of payment towards CGHS is very less in contrast to the banks. The discrimination between the employees of Banks and the Bank Pensioners should end or the Pensioners of Banks should be asked to remit only less amount equal to CGHS system.

**12. System of Medical Insurance without further delay:** - The system of medical insurance for the Pensioners of Central Government is being talked for many years now. The SCOVA also frequently debates this issue. NCCPA is unable to understand as to what is the reason for not initiating a medical insurance system for the Pensioners and retired of the non-CGHS areas? If there is an insurance system in non-CGHS areas, then there would have been proper choice for them to opt between the Medical Insurance and CGHS. This would have provided proper medical facilities at all districts and states for the senior citizen pensioners and family pensioners without undergoing the trouble of travel to the CGHS Centers as at present. There is a limit for discussions in any forum including the SCOVA. The Government should come forward to initiate a Medical



Insurance scheme for the Pensioners and Retired of the Central Government without any more delay.

- 13. Discrimination against NPS Retirees:** - There is discrimination against the NPS Pensioners and Pensioners retiring under CCS Pension Rules. There is also discrimination between the NPS retirees with 10 years' service and less than 10 years' service towards medical treatment. Retirees of NPS with 10 years' service are allowed to join CGHS whereas less than 10 years serviced NPS Retirees are prohibited. This is not at all fair while considering the aspect that medical treatment to all senior citizens is the responsibility of the state. The NCCPA requests the Government to allow all NPS retirees to join CGHS taking the fact that every retired is expected to pay a sum in

accordance with his or her grade pay to the Government for joining the CGHS.

- 14. Stopping the proposal of PPP of Wellness Centers:** - The recent meeting of the Secretary of Ministry of Health & PP with all Additional Directors of CGHS held on 18.04.2024 discussed the item in the agenda for running the CGHS Wellness Centers on 'Public Private Partnership'. PPP means transfer to Private only at the later date. This shows the mental makeup of privatization of CGHS by the Central Government. NCCPA and its Affiliates are opposed to any such proposal and urges to drop the proposal for turning the wellness centers controlled by private. The NCCPA and all its Affiliated Associations are eagerly awaiting the favourable response and action on the points referred to above.

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***Memorandum on pension related issues of CG Pensioners, BSNL Pensioners, Bank Pensioners etc.***

AIBDPA / Memorandum-2024 dated 05th September, 2024 to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Hon'ble Railway Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and the Cabinet Secretary]

The National Coordination Committee of Pensioners Associations and its affiliated Associations are submitting this memorandum on Pension related issues of CG Pensioners, BSNL Pensioners, Bank Pensioners etc., seeking your personal intervention for early settlement. The under mentioned issues require to be attended to by the Government urgently:

**1. Restoration of Old Pension scheme:**

The Central, State Government employees as well as the Public Sector Employees retired from services prior to 2004 were granted Pension ensuring 50% the basic pay on retirement and Dearness Relief on it called 'the defined pension scheme'. This Pension quantum was periodically revised along with the wage revision except for Public Sector Retirees through the Pay Commissions also. The introduction of NPS (National Pension System) from 1.1.2004 turned all these rights into vagaries depending on the market investment. Besides 10% of Pay and DA was regularly being recovered monthly. The

argument of the Government that this NPS will be fruitful only after long time also turned out to be false as after 20 long years of introduction the NPS fetched only a pittance of quantum as Pension. It was in this background that the demand for replacement of NPS and reintroduction of OPS to all rent the air.

The recently announced cabinet decision in the name of UPS (Unified Pension Scheme) also contains this 10% recovery from the work force and so basically it is also a Defined Contribution Scheme and thus the discrimination between UPS and OPS continues. Many other provisions of UPS also anti-Pensioner anti-employees in nature and carries very less benefit only. The provision in OPS like periodic updation of Pension; additional pension on attaining the age of 80-85-90-95-100 to both Pensioners and Family Pensioners; ensuring LPD or 10 months' Pay whichever is greater for fixing the pension for 10 years served employees; full pension for voluntary retirement on the day of retirement



etc., are not granted in the recently decided UPS. Moreover, the private fund managers are going to be enormously benefited by the enhancement of government share from 14 to 18.5% so that a total of 28.5% every month per employee will be handed over to the private fund managers. Thus, it is a scheme of pro-corporates only. UPS is ant-worker and against the tenets of milestone Nakara Judgment of Supreme Court which categorically opposed any division of Pensioners from any cut-off date.

Many State Governments understanding these issues reversed the NPS into OPS but the Center failed to appreciate the move. It started to threaten the State Governments with dire financial consequences if reversion to OPS is resorted to by them. Even the so-called GPS \*Guaranteed Pension System” implemented by the Andhra State Government is not ameliorating the Pensioners from all the problems posed by the NPS or UPS as like the monthly recoveries etc. The constitution of a high-powered Committee by the Central Government turned out to be an eye-wash only and said Committee avoided any recommendation from suggesting abrogation of NPS and to restore OPS.

Massive protests are being galvanized by different organizations of Employees and Pensioners against the NPS and the NGOs also conducting big demonstrations in Delhi against the NPS. NCCPA and its affiliates requests the Government to abrogate the NPS and UPS and embrace OPS once again for all work force to guarantee regular and enhanced pension payment to all the retirees without any personal contribution. The Government should understand that the UPS not satisfies the expectations of the work force and therefore restoration of OPS is the only solution for all problems.

## **2. NPS Pensioners switching to OPS without hiccups:**

Subject to conversion of NPS into OPS for all, we welcome the Government OM issued through DoP&PW on 9.4.2024 and 3.3.2023 allowing those NPS employees and pensioners

recruited on the basis of any advertisement or vacancies notified prior to the issuance of OM dated 22.12.2003 can get into the OPS by option. But certain hiccups are encountered while implementation at the field level. Those Pensioners who had drawn the amount at the time of their retirement are forced to return the amount with interest to the Government and opt for conversion to NPS. This has acted as a ruin and most of the Pensioners retired under NPS cannot repay as they have spent the amount for their children’s marriage or education. Now they have to rely on money lenders for the amount to be remitted to the Government and even there the calculation of interest is left to the department and this causes abnormal delay. The strain on the Pensioners is also huge and unbearable. The NCCPA and its affiliates request for adjustment of the amount to be remitted to the Government in the amount to be sanctioned by way of commutation and other benefits granted on conversion to OPS.

NCCPA and its Affiliates also urge the Government to extend the right of grant of family pension to all the NPS Pensioners also on their death and the spouse and subsequently the wards are eligible to family pension like their counter part the CG Pensioner under CCS Pension Rules, 2021. In short, we insist that the NPS be abolished altogether and OPS be restored for all.

## **3. NPS Pensioners to be allowed in CGHS and FMA paid also:**

At present the NPS Pensioners are allowed in CGHS only if they have completed 10 years of minimum service and paid FMA also only if they completed 10 years of service and reside in non-CGHS areas. After all the beneficiaries are to pay to CGHS according to their Grade Pay at the time of retirement. The NPS Pensioners with less than 10 years’ service also going to pay the subscription like others and so the NPS Pensioners with less than 10 years’ service also be allowed to join CGHS as the responsibility of the Government to provide for medical treatment to all cannot be denied. Similarly FMA may be paid to all the NPS Pensioners residing in non-CGHS areas if they opt for IP only from



CGHS. The present system is anti-NPS pensioners.

#### **4. Restoration of Senior Citizen Travel Concession:**

During Corona Pandemic the travel concession in Train Journey was withheld by the Indian Government but even today in the name of profit to Railways the concession is not restored. The travel concession was granted as a measure to grant concession to senior citizens and this Government's action of not restoring the concession is clearly anti-senior citizens. Such measure should not be looked into as profit and loss while the Government has no hesitation to write off lakhs of crores of rupees bank loans for the corporates without batting the eye. NCCPA urges to restore the concession immediately.

#### **5. Constitution of 8th CPC:**

The inflation rate in the country has already made the real pension a mockery. The Dearness Relief granted has already crossed 50% mark. The Pay Commission will take its time and the Government its time to examine the recommendations. Therefore, it is high time to constitute 8th Pay Commission now so that the recommendations are examined and implemented from 1.1.2026. There is only 18 months' time left for the next revision of pension updation implemented.

#### **6. Grant of Impounded DA/DR for 18 months:**

The government is adamant in not granting the DA/DR arrears for 18 months and impounded during the corona. Even though out of pressure the 11% DA/DR was released, the entire arrears for 18 months is continue to be impounded even now. The SCOVA meetings and the Parliament Replies are denying the arrears due to us. The stand of the Government that the money was spent for fighting the pandemic is very hollow. Several world governments have spent multi-billion dollars to fight the menace but the Indian Government did not spend like that and therefore the answer that the corona was fought with the DA/DR arrears of CG Employees /Pensioners are very hollow indeed. The Government which could spend

several lakh crores towards waiving the unpaid loans of corporates could not say that the paltry arrears of DA/DR was spent on fighting the pandemic. NCCPA and Affiliates therefore demand repayment of entire arrears of DA/DR impounded for the period of 18 months.

#### **7. Updation of pension for BSNL Pensioners:**

Pension Revision to BSNL absorbed retirees due from 01-01-2017 is being prolonged unjustly. NCCPA strongly protest against the injustice meted out to the BSNL retirees by denying their legitimate right of pension revision for such a long time. The entire telecom employees were transferred to the new entity, BSNL without giving them any option but assuring them better prospects and pension from government. The CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 was amended by incorporating Rule 37A for this purpose. Accordingly, pension to BSNL absorbed retirees is being paid from the Consolidated Fund of the Central Government.

The pension revision due from 01-01-2007 was settled with 30% fitment recommended by the 2nd PRC. The 3rd PRC has recommended a maximum fitment of 15%. However, initially the government had taken a stand that pension revision is intrinsically linked with wage revision and BSNL not in a position to implement wage revision.

But the fact remains that payment of pensionary benefits to BSNL absorbed retirees is no way connected with BSNL as the entire liability is to be borne by the government, particularly after annulment of 60:40 condition in 2016. Moreover, government has collected the pension contribution of these retirees on the basis of maximum of their pay scales. Therefore the demand of Pensioners Associations, including our affiliate, AIBDPA to revise the pension with 15% fitment from 01-01-2017 as per 3rd PRC, delinking wage revision is absolutely right and fully justified. DOT also in the meeting with the Pensioners Associations had agreed to delink the Pension revision from wage revision. The only disagreement was fitment percentage and DoT finally had assured to reconsider it. The



file was processed accordingly and reached to near finality. But eluded settlement, presumably due to the court proceedings by certain pensioners organizations seeking 7th CPC fitment for pension revision. NCCPA is of the opinion that pension revision of BSNL absorbed retirees, already delayed 90 months is not an issue to be left to the uncertainties of court proceedings and the NCCPA and all its Affiliates request the present central government early action for a reasonable out of court settlement.

#### **8. Bank Pensioners denied Updation for decades:**

The Bank Pensioners are denied any updation despite the repeated wage agreements to the serving bank employees. The argument of the Government that there is nothing in the original agreement about updation at the time of granting the pension as the third benefit is not tenable. The Bank Pensioners are denied any updation for decades. It is brought to the notice of Government that the Bank Pensioners are not second-class citizens to be treated like this. The reality is that the retired Chief Managers of the Banks are getting less pension than the Peons of the Banks who retire recently. The main reason is not granting any updation like the CG Pensioners in CCS(Pension)Rules who are brought to the notional wages in the Pay Matrix of the recent CPC and fixed the Pension. There is no justification to continue the stand of the Government. NCCPA and its affiliates urge the new Government to revise its stand and grant updation of pension to the bank pensioners.

#### **9. Commutation of pension period:**

At present for 15 years period the recovery against commutation of pension is continuing. The 5th CPC had recommended for reducing this period to 12 years. Even the Judicial National Commission appointed by the Supreme Court had recommended for reducing the period to 12 years. The interest rate fixed by the RBI has gone down. The mortality risk factor is also reduced and as per the Institute of Actuaries the mortality risk factor has 41% reduced now. It is a fact that at present the recovery is completed before 12 years and

the recovery continue to be made in 13th to 15th year are clearly in excess. Many State Governments like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat have already reduced the period of commutation less than 15 years despite their financial problems. Many Courts in different states issued order / direction to stop recovery of Commuted amount after 10.8 yrs. The words of Minister of State of DOPT in Parliament on 21.12.2022 that the matter of restoring the commuted pension has been referred to the Finance Department should not be forgotten. NCCPA and its Affiliates are pointing out that it is high time that the Central Government also come forward to reduce the period of commutation of pension recovery like some State Governments in our country.

#### **10. Grant of Notional Increment to 30th June and 31st December retirees:**

Many Courts including the Supreme Court had directed that notional increment to be granted and pension refixed for the 30th June and 31st December retirees. These pensioners work yearlong and for the convenience of Government only the date of increments was changed into 1st July and 1st January after 1.1.2006 and 1.1.2016 respectively for easy accounting purposes. There is no justification to deny the benefit in the name of fundamental rules to CG Employees. It is pertinent to point out that some State Governments like Tamil Nadu had already amended the FR of State Government Employees to grant the notional increments. The OMs issued by various departments of the Central Government differs funnily whereby some grant the facility to all, while some other grant from the date of Judgement, while others restrict it to litigants. The DOPT is not coming forward to release its own OM. The Chairman of SCOVA also desired and directed the DOPT to consult the Attorney General early in the matter. NCCPA and its Affiliates request the Government to early change the FR of Central Government Employees also to grant the notional increment to all retired and retiring on 30th June and 31st December.

#### **11. Grant of Additional Pension as and when a Pensioner enters 80 years of age:**



The Honourable Courts including the Supreme Court had ruled that additional pension of 20% should be granted to pensioners as and when they enter in their 80th year of age. The Government's interpretation of completing the age of 80 as attaining the age was not acceptable to courts. Moreover, the Government had gone to Parliament to revise the FR for Judiciary to deny the benefit of Guwahati High Court verdict to Judiciary. After the High Court and Supreme Court judgments the relevant sub rule 6 of 44 and sub rule (3) (a) of 50 CCS Pension Rules 2021 needs amendment. It is therefore pertinent to grant the additional pension as and when a pensioner enters the age of 80. NCCPA and its affiliates request the Central Government to amend the FR of CG Employees so that they are made eligible to receive the additional pension as and when they enter their 80th year of age.

#### **12. Additional Pension from 65 years of age:**

The Parliament Standing Committee has recommended that the additional Pension may be granted from attaining the age of 65 instead of granting on attaining the age of 80. The recommendation says that on attaining 65 the additional pension @ 5%; on 70 it should be 10%; on 75 it should be 15% and when they attain 80 years the additional pension can be 20% and so on. The Pensioner should enjoy the additional pension as the inflation is robbing the pensioners their happiness. The Government should keep the pensioners at the same living standard as they were under service. Grant of additional pension from the age of 65 can be a step towards this end. The Government should not argue that the expenditure is more as it did not hesitate to reduce the burden of Corporates by cancelling the huge debts due to nationalized banks. NCCPA and its affiliates therefore urge for grant of additional pension from the age of 65 onwards.

#### **13. Frame Recognition Rules to Pensioners Associations:**

There are no rules of recognition to Pensioners Associations at present like the service unions

which are recognized either under CCS (RSA) Rules, 1993 or under the Indian Trade Union Act etc. Selection therefore to SCOVA and Pensioners Portal are made at the whims and fancies of Government. The members selected to SCOVA also not in a position to raise subjects on their own as the Government selects the subjects. There are no statutory rights to the forum of SCOVA also like the JCM National Council in which the members have the right to raise subjects of their choice and on disagreement enjoy the right of arbitration etc. To put it mildly, this is not desirable in a democracy. NCCPA and its Affiliates request the Government to initiate talks with all stakeholders to frame rules of recognition to all-India and State level Pensioners Associations.

#### **14. Formation of National Litigation Policy:**

Most of the cases filed in different courts against the employees and pensioners are by the Government at the Centre, State Governments and the Public Sector Undertakings. The Supreme Court had revealed this information. Accordingly, the Central Government in 2010 had tried to frame a 'National Litigation Policy 2010' but given up. A National Litigation Policy 2015 was in the air but not seen the light of the day. Now we are in 2024 but there is no National Litigation Policy by the Central Government. The result is that the number of cases against the employees and pensioners are on the increase by the Official Side. More over the trend that calling the Judgments as "In Personam" and not as "In Rem" even when the case covers most of the similarly placed is not at all justified. Dragging poor pensioners to courts at their old age is also not at all justified. NCCPA and its Affiliates request for early framing of appropriate 'National Litigation Policy' to not drag each and every pensioner to different courts at their old age.

Hope and Trust that these issues will be settled early by the New Government so that the senior citizens in the country feel a sigh of relief.



**Stopping recovery of commuted value of pension for those pensioners who have completed 10 years of retirement as per court orders by CAT, Chandigarh and High Court of Jammu & Kashmir**

AIBDPA/ COMTN- MIN /2024 dated 23rd September, 2024 to Shri Jyotiraditya B Scindia Ji, Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Shri Jitender Singh Ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension]

May I bring the following facts on the subject under reference please.

1. The demand of restoration of commutation of pension after 12 years instead of the present 15 years was raised by various employees and pensioners organizations since last four decades. The 5th CPC as well as the National Judicial Commission appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court had recommended for restoration of commutation after 12 years. There had been certain court orders also staying recovery of commutation after 10 years. It was under these circumstances, that Hon'ble Minister of State for Pension stated in the Parliament on 21-12-2022 that the matter has been referred to the Finance Ministry for consideration. Unfortunately, nothing has happened so far to the anger and anguish of lakhs of employees and pensioners.
2. Now, CAT, Chandigarh in OA/746/2024 filed by Krishna Devi Vs Department of Telecommunications vide interim order dated 29-08-2024 has stayed recovery of commutation from the petitioners who have completed 10 years and 8 months after retirement.
3. The CAT Chandigarh has issued the interim order based on the orders of High Courts of Punjab & Haryana and Kerala.
4. Further, CAT, Chandigarh has significantly quoted the decision of the state governments of Haryana and Punjab in its order, as follows ;  
" In order to avoid further litigation in the matter, State Government has now

considered the issue and decided to stop the recovery of commuted value of pension till the vacation of stay orders, from All the Pensioners ( including petitioners ), who has completed 10 years of retirement or above. " The CAT has given stress of extending the benefit to all the similarly placed pensioners in the decision taken by Punjab and Haryana state governments.

5. Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir also in WP(C) 2199/2024 by Ravindra Dhar and Others Vs Union of India and Others has issued an Interim Order on 09-09-2024 staying recovery of commuted value from pension of the petitioners / pensioners, if they have completed 10 years of retirement.
6. It is a fact that some of state governments like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat had already reduced the period of recovery of commutation.
7. It is pertinent to point out that the Central Government is following the practice of filing appeal even for the cases of less financial liability and finally when the appeal is rejected, implementing the order limiting only to the petitioners, pleading ' personam.'. It is worth mentioning that denial of the benefits to other similarly placed pensioners amounts to gross discrimination and violation of Article 14 of the Constitution.

Therefore it is our fervent request to your goodself for favour of intervention for settling the long pending issue of restoration of commutation after 12 years. Until such time action may please be caused to stop the recovery of commutation value from pension of all pensioners who have completed 10 years of retirement.

**Irrational Income tax deduction at source from medical payments of lower pension drawing BSNL Retirees - intervention sought to stop the injustice.**

AIBDPA/ BSNL/ IT /2024 dated 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 to Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL]

We wish to bring to your kind notice the following facts on the issue under reference for early intervention and settlement please.

Many complaints are being received by this Association about unjust and unwarranted deduction of income tax at source by BSNL



Corporate Office from the medical payments, both with voucher and without voucher to the lower pension drawing BSNL Retirees. Actually, these lower pension drawing retirees do not come under the ambit of tax payers. Of course they may get the refund if they file the income tax return. But they are not well versed individually for filing the return by themselves and compelled to approach some professionals for which charges are to be paid by the poor retirees. Therefore we strongly feel that the present system of deducting income

tax at source from medical payments to retirees without considering their total income towards pension needs to be relooked.

It is worth mentioning that CCAs are not resorting to TDS while making medical allowance payments to those BSNL Retirees switched over to CGHS.

We therefore request your goodself to cause necessary action to exempt the BSNL Retirees drawing an yearly pension of less than <sup>1</sup> 7 lakhs from the TDS for medical payments.

***Discrimination in extending certain benefits to Family Pensioners by BSNL.***

[AIBDPA /BSNL-FP/ 2024 dated 30th September, 2024 to Shri Sanjeev Tyagi, GM (Admin),

Ref: - **This association letter No. AIBDPA / BSNL-FP/2024 dated 07-03-2024.**

family pensioners and one time opportunity to the family pensioners to change their medical option based on full justification.

We wish to bring a gentle reminder of our letter (copy enclosed for ready reference) on the subject under reference.

Sir, we feel that it is high time to end the discrimination meted out to the family pensioners considering the fact that family pensioners are also part and parcel of BSNL family.

Unfortunately, no action seems to have taken on both the issue of grant of concession in FTTH to

***Yearly revalidation of Medical Cards- request to change the procedure to that of CGHS cards.***

[AIBDPA/BSNL MRS/ MC/2024 dated 30.09. 2024 to Shri Sanjeev Tyagi, GM(Admin), BSNL]

Ref: - **This Association letter dated 7th March, 2024.**

on this vital issue and the pensioners are put to continue with the difficulties and sufferings.

May we recall the discussion the undersigned had with you on 7th March, 2024 based on the letter referred to above. (copy enclosed for ready reference)

Further, the assurance that provision will be made in BSNL Portal to revalidate the medical card also stands unimplemented.

In the discussion you had assured to examine the issue in consultation with the concerned DGM/ AGM etc. But Sir, nothing has happened so far

Therefore we once again request you to kindly cause necessary action to change the procedure to that of CGHS where revalidation is required only when there is a change in beneficiaries.

***Pension Revision - massive response for demands day called by Joint Forum of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners Associations.***

The call of the Joint Forum of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners Associations to observe Demands Day on 02-07-2024 by holding demonstration at all levels and submission of memorandum addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Secretary, DoT through respective CGMs and GMs have been implemented with huge participation of pensioners throughout the country.

The only demand put forward was Pension Revision with 15% fitment from 01-01-2017, delinking wage revision, which has become a burning issue of BSNL/MTNL pensioners due to the neglect and apathy by the government and the DoT bureaucracy for the last 90 months. Therefore they pensioners have utilized the opportunity to express their strong protest, anguish and resentment braving inclement weather including heavy rain in many parts of the country. On behalf of the Joint Forum, we salute and congratulate all the participants.

Of course, the Demands Day is the first programme and the Joint Forum will meet shortly and decide the dates of the second and third phase, CCA Office March and Chalo Delhi.



## Current Affairs

### **CCA Office March held enthusiastically.**

The second phase of the Joint Forum agitational programme, CCA office March on 05-09-2024 was held with large participation of pensioners in all the circles.

### **P.K.Purwar, CMD BSNL denied extension - Ravi A.Robert Jerard is the interim CMD, BSNL and MTNL.**

Shri P K Purwar, the incumbent CMD,BSNL and MTNL has been denied extension as he is facing inquiry along with some other top officers. As an interim measure, Shri.Ravi A.Robert Jerard , DDG (SRI), DoT is given additional charge of both CMD,BSNL and MTNL for a period of six months .

### **DA/DR to increase by 3% from 01-07-2024.**

According to the Consumer Price Index , DA/DR for Central Government Employees and Pensioners is to be increased by 3%, total 53% from 01-07-2024. However, the orders in this regard is yet to be issued.

### **IDA to increase by 6.5% from 01-10-2024.**

As per the Consumer Price Index released by Labour Bureau of India on 01-10-2024, IDA for the 2007 Pay Scales is to increase by 6.5% with effect from 01-10-2024.Now, the total IDA will be 224.3% ( 217.8% existing + 6.5%). Payable after DPE issues the order.

### **Central Executive Committee meeting at New Delhi on 12-11-2024.**

The Central Executive Committee Meeting of AIBDPA is decided to be held at K G Bose Bhawan, 28/64, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi at 2 PM on 12-11-2024.

### **Discussion with GM(Admin), BSNL Corporate Office.**

Com.K G Jayaraj, General Secretary has discussed the following issues with Shri.Sanjeev

Tyagi, GM (Admin), BSNL Corporate Office on 30.09.2024.

1. One time opportunity to family pensioners to change BSNL MRS option.
2. Extension of 40% concession to Family Pensioners for FTTH.
3. Yearly revalidation of Medical Cards.

Actually all these issues were taken up earlier and discussed also with GM(Admin) based on the detailed letters given. General Secretary handed over reminder letters on these issues and brought his notice the hardships being experienced by the aged and ailing pensioners compelled to come from far off places to the respective BAs to revalidate the medical card. He also pleaded to end the discrimination to the Family Pensioners in extending certain benefits like denial of option for BSNL MRS and FTTH concession. However, the response of the GM was surprisingly negative which was protested by the General Secretary.

### **Chalo Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.**

The last phase of the Joint Forum's three phased agitational programme for Pension Revision is Mass Dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 12-11-2024. So also is the NCCPA Chalo Delhi programme on pensionary issues and CGHS issues on 13-11-2024.at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Arrangements are being made to make both the programs memorable and spectacular.

### **AIBDPA 16<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on 21-10-2024.**

Observe the 16<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of our mighty organization, AIBDPA befittingly by hoisting the red flag, holding meetings/seminars, and medical camps and distribution of clothes/ food to the needy people.



Joint Forum CCA Office March – 05.09.2024



## Obituary

**Com.Sitaram Yechury.**



Comrade Sitaram Yechury (72), General Secretary of CPI(M) has passed away at 3.05 PM on 12-09-2024. Com.Yechury was under treatment for acute respiratory ailment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for the last three weeks and had been battling against the serious lungs infection. He came to limelight as a brilliant student and President of the Students Union in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. After joining the CPI(M), he was naturally elected to the Central Committee and Politburo. He played a significant role in drafting the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA 1 government which included the Rural Employment Scheme. He was one of the best parliamentarians during his two term tenure fighting for the cause of the downtrodden and workers. Com.Yechury was elected General Secretary of CPI(M) in 2015 and continued till his sad demise. He played a pivotal role in uniting all the secular, democratic parties in the country against the authoritarian regime. The passing away of Com.Sitaram Yechury is a great loss to the progressive, democratic and secular forces not only in the country but also globally. AIBDPA dips its banner in respect of the departed leader and convey heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and lakhs of CPI(M) cadres. Red Salute Com.Sitaram Yechury!

**Com.Budhadeb Bhattacharjee**



CHQ is saddened to report that Com.Budhadeb Bhattacharjee (80), former Chief Minister of West Bengal and Politburo Member of CPI(M) has passed away on 08-08-2024. He was unwell for the last few years and was compelled to confine at his home in Kolkata. The mortal remains will be handed over for medical research and people will be allowed to give their last respects at the CPI(M) State Committee office on 09-08-2024. The passing away of Com.Budhadeb Bhattacharjee is a great loss to the whole country and the progressive movements. AIBDPA pays respectful homages to the departed leader and convey heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and comrades.

**Com. Chittar Lal Ji Goswami, District Secretary, Kota**

CHQ is saddened to report the unexpected demise of Com. Chittar Lal Ji Goswami, District Secretary, Kota, Rajasthan on 07-07-2024 due to massive heart attack. Com. Goswami was a sincere and efficient leader who took up the responsibility of District Secretary, Kota after the death of former district Secretary, Com. Pyare Lalji. CHQ pays homages to the departed leader and conveys heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and comrades of Rajasthan.



Joint Forum CCA Office March – 05.09.2024





## ALL INDIA BSNL DOT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

[Registered No. S/68836/2010]

### Central Head Quarters

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Patron : A.K. Bhattacharjee

President: M.R. Das

AIBDPA/ CEC/NOTICE/2024

07<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

To

**All CHQ Office bearers  
and Circle Secretaries.**

Dear Comrades,

### NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in pursuance to the provision 15(vii) of the constitution, the Central Executive Committee Meeting of All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association will be held at K G Bose Bhawan, 28/64, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi -110008 at 2 PM on 12-11-2024.

**The following shall be the agenda.**

- (1) Presentation of report on activities since Pune CEC.
- (2) Presentation of unaudited accounts for 2022-23 & 2023-24.
- (3) Organisational matters.
  - a) Holding of Circle Conferences of Madhya Pradesh, UP(E), Punjab, NE-2 which have become over due.
  - b) Timely payment of CHQ quota.
  - c) Tele Pensioner.
  - d) Venue of next AIC.
- (4) Pending issues.
  - (i) Review of agitational program on pension revision.
  - (ii) Restoration of commuted portion of pension after 10 years and 8 months - court orders and implementation to all.
  - (iii) One notional increment for pension to those who served one full year but retired before drawal of increment.
  - (iv) Additional Pension at 65,70 & 75 as recommended by Parliamentary Standing Committee.
  - (v) 20% additional pension on entering 80 years.
  - (vi) Fixed medical allowance of Rs.3000.
  - (vii) Issues related to BSNL MRS and CGHS.
- (5) NCCPA - formation of NCCPA Units in States / Districts.
- (6) Revival of BSNL and functioning of CoC of BSNLEU, AIBDPA & BSNLCCWF.
- (7) TUI ( P&R).
- (8) Other items, if any.

The CEC will be strictly restricted to CHQ Office bearers and Circle Secretaries considering the tight schedule and the necessity to complete the CEC within 5-6 hours. Lunch, tea and dinner will be arranged for the participants.

With warm greetings,

**K G Jayaraj**  
General Secretary.





**NCCPA  
state level dharna  
on 25-09-2024**



**Joint Forum CCA Office March  
on 05-09-2024.**