From:

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**To.**

**Com. Kishan Singhjee,**

**General Secretary,**

**All India Retired BSNL Executives Welfare Association,**

**C-8/230, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi - 110053.**

**hoo.com**

**Dear Com. Kishan Singhajee,**

**At the out set thanks for your letter to the Chairman, Telecom Commission, New delhi on providing the proper mechanism for further revision of pension. The pensioners will certain appreciate your true concern for them. Undoubttedly future pension revison of BSNL retirees is a mattaer of serious concern. Rule 37A protects the interest of the BSNL retirees to the larger extent but cannot be said fully. When 2nd Pay Committee was formed the issue was taken up with the Pay Committee to study the pensioners issues also. The Deprtment of Public Enterprises did not make any references to the Committee to go into the issues of pension of BSNL retirees. The Pay Committee did not accept the demand of the Associations and turned down on the groud that the pension scheme does exist in any of the CPSEs. Therefore this matter remained unresolved by the committee and had to be taken up with DOT/Govt. of India seperately and fought for years but not yet over.**

**Let me come back to future pension revision of BSNL( absorbed) retirees. Whenever Pay Commissions are formed the Govt. of India/ Ministry of Finanace make references to the Commission to study the pensioners issues as well and to make recommendations. Accordingly Pay Commissions make recommendations and pensions of C G retirees are revised. Then came the Nakara case judgment and it was accepted by the Government and the Pay Commissions recommended pension revisions based on the judgment thus removing the descrminations existing between pre and post pensioners pension revision. That is the history.**

**Now the BSNL ‘s financial condition is critical. Already as you know the arrears on pension revision is paid only from 10-06-2013 denying payment from 01-01-2007 to 09-06-2013 even it has no connection with BSNL financial status as the pension is paid the consolidated fund of India. BSNL is paying pension contribution @ 11% of the maximum of the revised scales(3rd PC) which is 2 ½ times more than what it was paying earlier. The formation of 3rd Pay Committee is under process in the Deprtment of Public Enterprises/Ministry of Heavy Industries. The CMD while taking over the charge recently has given hint not to expect anything/too much from the 3rd PC recommendations in view of financial instability of BSNL which has been in loss to the tune of Rs.38000/- crores for the past 4-5 years as per the reports while previous year loss still to be known. The Pay Committee study the scales of Executives only and made recommendations with a note in their 2nd report that the weitage may be allowed by the CPSEs based on their financial stability. The BSNL has already withdrawn several allowances to its employees and also quarterly medical allowances to employees and pensioners. The scales of Non-Executives are framed at not exceeding ratio on Executives in negotiation with Non-Executive Associations/Unions with several rounds of talks /discussions as seen from the last occasion.**

**The pay scales of Central Govt. employees are revised based on the recommendations of Pay Commission in consideration to Nakara case judgment and with the approval of Cabinet which is a formality course of action. The Central Government retirees thus get pension automatically revised without any problems what so ever.**

**Here questions arise:-**

1. **Will this (automatic revision) happen for BSNL(absorbed) retirees.**
2. **If BSNL expresses its inability to accept the Pay Committee recommendations for revision of scales and also do not go into negotiations with Associations for framing revised scales for Non-Executives on the ground of financial instability still DOT will revise the pension as per 3rd Pay Committee fitment formula?**
3. **As per the Nakara case judgment there should not be any descrimination between pre & post retirees. In view of this position :-**
4. **whether pension alone can be revised if BSNL fail to accept Pay Committee recommendations and revise the scales?**
5. **Will DOT accept it??**
6. **If pension alone is revised, will not it result in descrimination between pre & post retirees?**
7. **Whether your letter dated 17-06-2015 takes care of these aspects?**
8. **In case BSNL refuses to revise the scales of emplyees will the Govt. of India come forward with financial assistance to BSNL to accept the 3rd Pay Comiittee reccomendations?**
9. **What will be role of the Associations /Unions in such a situations?**
10. **Where existing pensioners/ future pensioners will stand?**
11. **Is it not advisable to go into the 7th CPC and get the pension revised on par with CDA?**

**Thus there are number of questions/problems before the pensioners. It is therefore necessary for the Associations/ Unions to keep in mind the future of pensioners and take up the issues with appropriate authorities at appropriate time.**

**Finally I have come to the organisaion matters. Number of BSNL retirees is around 1.25 laks. We have already number of BSNL pensioners Associations at cirle/District level functioning independently. The Executive pensioners Association itself there are 4-5. In metro cities executives may be more in number but in district places hardly 5-10 pensioners may be residing. Many of them may not be residing in their last HQs. More than 50% executive retirees are not members of Executives Associations. Once Executives retire they are all ordinary pensioners and keeping themselve aloof from other pensioners may not serve any purpose. It is therefore time now to unite all Telecom pensioners( including DOT) and bring them all under one flag to make a mighty Telecom pensioners’ organisation. In this direction I had written a letter to the General Secretaries of pensioners Associations and some of them have favoured it. Com. Kishan Signjee let us all to-gether form a mighty ALL INDIA TELECOM PENSIONERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION ( or any other name ). I hope you will agree with me. Days ahead are not smooth and it is time to act & unite.**

**Yours fraternally,**

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**K G Deshpande**

**Copy to all General Secretaries of Pensioners Associations.**