

# **RETIRED TELECOM OFFICERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

(Reg.No.Bombay Public Trust Act 1950- F-37187/Mumbai/2008)

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DATED 15<sup>TH</sup> SEP'2017

## **KEY NOTE ADDRESS**

**BY SHRI. BADRI R. PATHAK GENERAL SECRETARY**

**AT OPEN HOUSE SESSION OF NINETH AGB OF RTOWA MUMBAI ON 15/09/2017**

Respected Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, Office bearers of RTOWA Delhi, Chairman and Convenor of United Forum Mumbai, Office bearers of all Associations and Unions of MTNL Mumbai, our President and esteemed Members...

On behalf of Executive Committee and on my own behalf I welcome you all to this Open Session. We, the members of RTOWA, feel immensely honoured to have the distinguished guests in this Open House Session. I feel privileged to present this key note address.

RTOWA Mumbai was registered on 22/08/2008 with the main objective to safeguard the interests of combined service pensioners of MTNL Mumbai retired from executive cadres. As on date there are 951 life members and the number is growing every month.

Hon'ble guests, we hold the open session every year with the main purpose of generating goodwill and better understanding between management and the pensioners, besides conveying our views on some important issues concerning the pensioners..

At the outset on behalf of members of RTOWA I would like to thank Ms.Monali Dhakate CCA and her team of officers and staff for completion of drawal and payment of arrears for 69 months on account of revision of pension to about 6000 pensioners retired prior to 01/01/2007. In total about 14000 PPOs have than prepared during the last three years. The work got momentum after madam has assumed office last year. The task was stupendous. Everything viz, space, staff, system etc., were to be arranged from scratch. MTNL provided almost all the logistics and support. RTOWA is thankful to all officers and staff of MTNL who have provided all these logistics and support and to officers and staff of FMS and Pension Sections.

Now the pensioners are more concerned about the revision of pension and the medical facilities.

**MEDICASL FACILITIES :-** The medical facility consists of reimbursement of OPD expenses and insurance cover for hospital treatment (CGHS). The cost of medical treatment is increasing continuously whereas MTNL is unable to improve upon the medical facilities. The OPD reimbursement limit has not been revised after it was fixed in 2008. A portion of the insurance premium amount is also reduced from this entitled limit. The insurance cover for hospital treatment remains the same since the inception of the scheme. Some restriction in reimbursement of bed charges were introduced last year. In this background Associations demanded CGHS facility as an other option. After much ground work by MTNL and DoT, we got eligibility to CGHS but CGHS Mumbai agreed to issue cards only a couple of months back, by then the subscription rates are doubled. Thanks to MTNL for part reimbursement of CGHS subscription. But it is not enough. MTNL will save expenses on the present OPD scheme and CGHS perpetually if the pensioners switch over to CGHS. By reimbursing 100% contribution most of the pensioners will be encouraged to opt for CGHS. The CGHS also should continue for those who do not opt for CGHS...

## **REVISION OF PAY / PENSION WITH 78.2% OF IDA ON 01/01/2007:-**

Neutralising 100% of the price rise, the Government formula prescribes 78.2% IDA in the revision of Pay/Pension on 01/01/2007. All PSUs have applied the formula with 78.2% IDA except MTNL which has applied 68.8% IDA. PSUs have no discretion to tamper with the formula for revision. MTNL employees and pensioners are deprived off the 100% neutralisation of price rise to the extent of 9.4% IDA since the revision of Pay/Pension on 01/01/2007. Therefore RTOWA along with other Unions and Associations is on agitation path demanding 78.2% IDA.

## **REVISION OF PENSION AS PER ORDERS ON 7<sup>TH</sup> PAY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS :-**

The MTNL Pensioners are Government employees absorbed in MTNL and their pension is governed by Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules'72 and paid by the Government and debited to Civil Services estimates 2071. MTNL is paying pension contribution on the maximum of PSU pay scales instead of mid pay of the pay scales. Eligibility, entitlement, and calculation of qualifying service, gratuity, pension, commutation etc are done as per Central government rules as modified from time to time as per Pay Commission recommendations. Therefore it is fully justified that revision of pension of MTNL combined service pensioners should be done as per 7<sup>th</sup> CPC.

## **Sanction of regular pension or recalculation of pension of those retired prior to 01/04/2014 but Court Case / Disciplinary case or pay anomaly settled after 01/04/2014. :-**

There are some cases where the liability arises now for payment of retirement benefits to those retired prior to 01/04/2014 but the settlement of court cases, disciplinary cases or settlement of pay anomaly cases have been done after 01/04/2014. There are few cases where Commutation and Gratuity have not been paid and many cases where pension arrears not paid on settlement of pay anomaly. These cases need to be given priority for settlement as they are pending for long time and the retirees are the sufferers.

## **PAYMENT OF PENSIONARY BENEFITS ON RETIREMENT :-**

At present it takes about a couple of months to get payment of gratuity commutation GPF etc., and about 4 to 6 months to get PPO and leave encashment. The policy of the Government is to pay the retirement benefits on the date of retirement itself or atleast within a month. Abiding by the policy of the Government MTNL and CCA office need to revamp the procedures so that the pensionary benefits are settled early.

## **LICENSE FEE FOR RETENTION OF BSNL QUARTERS AFTER RETIREMENT :-**

BSNL MH Circle levies License Fee plus **an amount equal to last drawn HRA** for retention of its quarters by the MTNL pensioners. Inclusion of last drawn HRA amount in the License Fee recoverable from Pensioners is in contravention of Government Rules. BSNL refuses to issue NOC to pensioners if HRA amount is not paid and a portion of Gratuity amount has been withheld by the CCA. This issue is pending for long time and needs to be settled early.

## **TIME BOUND PROMOTION FOR VRS OPTEES WITH EFFECT FROM 01/10/2004**

The first time bound promotion was given with retrospective effect from 01/10/2004. Accordingly all those retired after 01/10/2004, except VRS retirees, were given promotion retrospectively with

effect from 01/10/2004. The exclusion of VRS retirees is not at all justified and they also should be given the benefit of time bound promotion with effect from 01/10/2004.

#### **MERGER OF BSNL AND MTNL :-**

The benefits of merger are obvious. The merged entity will have more resources for optimum use. Synergy in operations will benefit the subscribers. Employees and Pensioners will be benefited as the merged entity will have uniform pay scales and perks.. Above all the merged entity can take on the private operators in competition. Therefore RTOWA holds the view that the merger should take place at the earliest.

#### **CONCLUSION :-**

RTOWA Mumbai is grateful to CMD, Dir(HR), GM(Fin) CO, CCA MH Circle, ED MTNL Mumbai, GM (F), GM (A), DGM (IR), DGM (FMS), DGM (Pen) of MTNL Mumbai, all officers of pension cell of CCA, all officers of pension cell of MTNL Mumbai, and officers of FMS Mumbai for their compassion and sincerity in dealing with pensioners issues and for sparing their time whenever we met them for discussions.

**This Key Note is a brief of RTOWA's views on some important issues and our members hope that these issues will receive due consideration of all concerned authorities.**

RTOWA thanks all the distinguished guests for their patient hearing and sparing their valuable time to grace this Open House Session.

With Season's greetings,

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**BADRI R. PATHAK**  
General Secretary

15/09/2017