

UNITED FORUM OF MTNL UNIONS & ASSOCIATIONS

[D-14,Telegraph Square,Doctor Lane,Gol Market ,New Delhi-110001]

Associates

- # Telecom Executive Association of MTNL (M: 9869136363)
 - # MTNL Executive Association (M: 9868133336)
 - # MTNL Staff Union (M: 9868133959)
 - # MTNL Mazdoor Sangh (M: 9868137700)
 - # MTNL SC/ST Employees Welfare Association (M: 9810672392)
 - # Bhartiya Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Karamchari Sangh (M: 9868240035)
 - # MTNL Workers Union (NFTE) (M: 20591084)
 - # Dr.Ambedkar MTNL Sc/ST/OBC Telecom Emp.Welfare Assn.(M: 9868549755)
 - # MTNL Karamchari Sanghathan (M: 9868001515)
 - # MTNL Karamchari Union (M: 9013018199)
 - # MTN Employee Union Gr.C&D (M: 9013356947)
 - # MTNL Employees Welfare Union (M: 9868115485)
 - # MTNL Karamchari Ekta Union (M: 9868838008)
 - # MTNL Karamchari Congress (M: 9868134633)
 - # Retired Telecom Officers' Welfare Association (M: 9968721515)
 - # MTNL(DOT) Ex.Employees Welfare Association (M: 9968075051)
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Ref. No. UFOM/2010-11

Date: 19/07/2013

MEMORANDUM ON M.T.N.L. PENSION ISSUE

To

Shri V.Narayanasamy
MOS (PMO), Minister of Personnel , Public Grievances and Pension
New Delhi-110001

Respected sir,

We represent the employees of MTNL Delhi & Mumbai. This Memorandum is aimed at drawing your kind attention to the MTNL pension issue which is closely related to the factors driving MTNL to a present state of sickness. But before going further into details let us state the relevant background in brief to refresh your memory and understanding in this regard.

BACKGROUND

- (1) MTNL was incorporated in April,1986 with the portion of telecom service in Delhi and Mumbai.
- (2) Group 'C' and 'D' cadres of DOT working in Delhi and Mumbai were absorbed in MTNL w.e.f. 1.11.1998.

- (3) Group 'C' and 'D' cadres of DOT working elsewhere in the country were absorbed in BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000.
- (4) Group 'B' officers of DOT were absorbed in MTNL and BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000.
- (5) Presidential Orders for absorption of Group 'C' and 'D' and Group 'B' officers of DOT for absorption in MTNL and BSNL were issued almost simultaneously, batch by batch during the period : February, 2001 to 2003.
- (6) Prior to absorption in BSNL and MTNL, these employees were governed by the same pension rules, i.e., CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972, pension being paid by DOT from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- (7) After absorption the sets of the same DOT officials, one absorbed in MTNL and the other in BSNL were provided with two widely different pension schemes. For BSNL, all absorbees have only ONE TYPE of pension i.e., the Government pension on combined service payable by DOT from the Consolidated Fund of India whereas for MTNL absorbees, THREE TYPES of pension schemes were prescribed and pension is not paid by DOT but by MTNL.
- (8) MTNL absorbees are seriously aggrieved at this discrimination and eventually this has led to a serious HR issues in MTNL due to repeated agitations of the employees.
- (9) At least on two earlier occasions, there were interventions from Hon'ble MOC&IT to find solution. On 20.8.2002, the then Hon'ble MOC&IT discussed this matter and it was agreed that there should not be any distinction in regard to payment of pensionary benefits between two sets of erstwhile DOT employees, one absorbed in MTNL and the other in BSNL. Again on 6.12.2007, the matter was discussed in the high level meeting under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble MOC&IT which was also attended by a few MPs from Mumbai and Delhi. It was decided to take up this issue in the light of decision taken in a high level meeting held on 20.8.2002 by Hon'ble MOC&IT.
- (10) Besides this, on 21.11.2002, while answering Unstarred Question No.241 in the Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MOC&IT assured that this matter would be sorted out and there would be no distinction between BSNL and MTNL pension.
- (11) Despite all this, the issue of granting MTNL pension similar to that in BSNL remains unresolved till date.

DEVELOPMENTS THEREAFTER

We also represent the case of MTNL pension issue to Rajya Sabha Committee on Subordinate Legislation under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Shri Kalraj Mishra. On the same day, the Committee heard the Secretary/DOT also on this issue.

- (1) In response to Rajya Sabha Secretariat's OM No. RS 19(11)/2011-COSL dated 7.1.2011, Min. of Finance, Department of Expenditure wrote on 14.2.2011 that at the direction of the Cabinet, the MTNL pension issue was discussed by COS in its meeting held on 23.7.2009. The meeting was ended with the directions that this issue may be brought to the COS again after receiving the comments from Department of Legal Affairs as well as after examining the impact/implications. It is also informed to Rajya Sabha Secretariat that no further meeting of COS has been held on this issue after July, 2009.
- (2) Again in response to Rajya Sabha Secretariat's OM No. RS19(11)/2011-COSL dated 7.2.2011, Min. of Finance, Department of Financial Services wrote vide No. 11/2/2011-PR dated 13.1.2011 that MTNL pension issue does not come under the purview of this

department. This issue may be taken up with DOT,DPPW and Department of Expenditure.

- (3) In response to the letter of Shri Mahabal Mishra, MP(LS) addressed to Hon'ble MOC&IT on the issue of MTNL pension, Hon'ble MOS(C&IT) wrote vide D.O.No. 32-01/2011-SR dated 7.2.2011 interlaid as follows :

“ I would like to inform that at present the proposal on payment of pension to MTNL Employees is under active consideration of Committee of Secretaries (COS).”

It is also mentioned that the issue will be submitted to COS after receiving the comments of the Department of Expenditure and Department of Legal Affairs.

- (4) The representatives of the United Forum of MTNL Unions and Associations met Shri Gurudas Kamath, Hon'ble MOS(C&IT) on 11.4.2011 and discussed the MTNL pension issue. The said meeting was also attended by the Secretary/DOT and CMD/MTNL. Hon'ble MOS(C&IT) also directed to Secretary/DOT to pursue the case of MTNL pension issue with the concerned departments vigorously. Hon'ble MOS(C&IT) also directed to implement of revision of pension in MTNL as it is done in BSNL.
- (5) MTNL Management gave presentation to Hon'ble MOC&IT on 6.6.2011 on the issue of payment of MTNL pension on the same line of BSNL. The Secretary/DOT, and Member(Services)/DOT were also present. Hon'ble MOC&IT reportedly asserted that there should not be any distinction between MTNL and BSNL as regards mode of dispensation of pension.

PRESENT STATUS

- (1) MTNL pension continues to be paid by MTNL from its own resources (Salary Head). This costs MTNL heavily. For the period ending on 31.3.2010, MTNL paid Rs 1263 Crores as pension which is the liability of DOT/Govt. The expenditures for pension have been further increased due to revision of pension w.e.f. 01/01/2007.
- (2) MTNL is now in red. MTNL has incurred loss of Rs 2610 Crores in the year 2009-2010. Often payments of pension and other pensionary benefits are delayed by MTNL due to paucity of funds. This has already created fear of pension insecurity in the minds of the pensioners.
- (3) Thanks to the efforts taken by Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister (C & IT), Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri P.Chidambaram, Hon'ble Minister (Finance) with a sole objective of assisting MTNL and BSNL for revival. It is recognized that the liability of MTNL for pension payment is the main impediment on the way of MTNL's revival from present acute financial crisis.

CONCLUDING PARA & PRAYER

Sir, we earnestly request you to take up this important issue with the appropriate authority of Government of India. This is a matter of financial and social security of nearly 50,000 MTNL employees, retirees and their families in Delhi and Mumbai at their old age. When Government can provide the secured pension for 3,50,000 employees of BSNL, there is no reason why similar secured pension can not be provided to the similarly placed counterparts in MTNL who are negligible in number compared with their counterpart in BSNL.

For this, we shall remain ever grateful to you.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(A.K.Kaushik)
General Secretary TEAM

Sd/-
(M.K.Bagchi)
Convener United forum of union & association of MTNL

Sd/-
(MANGE RAM SHARMA)
(President of United Forum of Union & Association of MTNL)

