

## **United Forum of Unions & Associations of MTNL**

**Affiliated Unions & Associations**

**TEAM• MEA• RTOWA• MTNL Karmachari Front• MTNL Workers Union  
MTNL REU• MTNL PWA• AI SC/ST EWA• SUN of MTNL• BMTNEU  
MTNL SC/ST EA• VOTE• MTNL SC/ST EWA• MTNL KU**

No: UFUA/MTNL/MBI/2012-13/PR

Date: 18.7.2012

### **Press Release**

Protest action programme launched by the above named United Forum consisting of 9 Unions of Non-Executives, 3 Associations of Executives and 2 Associations of Pensioners of MTNL Mumbai for payment of Pension to MTNL Pensioners by DoT/Govt of India which is being paid by MTNL enters 3rd phase with Rally From Shivaji Park Telephone Exchange to Prabhadevi Telephone Exchange on 18th July, at 1430 hrs. Thousands of employees are expected to participate in the rally demanding payment of Pension by the Central Govt. like it is being paid to BSNL pensioners.


Following are the demands put forward to MTNL by UFOM;

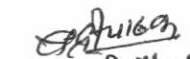
1. Stop formation of Pension Trusts
2. Payment of Pension by DoT/Govt as being paid to BSNL pensioners
3. Revision of Pension for pre 2007 MTNL pensioners like BSNL Pensioners
4. Pay Revision fitment @ 78.2 % of IDA as per DPEs order No: 2(70)/08-DPE(WC)-GL-VII/09 dt 2.4.2009 w.e.f. 1.1.2007

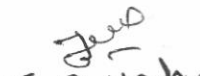
#### **1. Position regarding Pension issues:**


Both MTNL and BSNL were formed out of DOT. The employees and the Executive cadres of both MTNL and BSNL are DOT recruited officials. On formation of MTNL and BSNL, these employees and officers of DOT were absorbed in MTNL and BSNL as the case may be. The Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees of DOT were absorbed in MTNL w.e.f.1.11.98. The Group 'B' officers of DOT were absorbed in MTNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000. Like wise Group 'C' and 'D' employees and Group 'B' officers of DOT were absorbed in BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000.

Having background as DOT recruits, the absorbed employees of both MTNL and BSNL should receive the Government pension payable by the Government from the consolidated fund of India, if they opt for Government pension at the time of absorption. But in actuality, thanks to the discriminatory outlook of DOT/Govt., MTNL absorbees, on retirement, are being paid pension by MTNL whereas for BSNL absorbees, the pension is being paid by DOT/Govt. on their retirement. On the consequent upon the wage revisions, DOT /Govt has granted and paid upward revision of pension to the BSNL retirees. whereas for the similarly placed MTNL retirees, DOT /Govt. has refused to take such responsibility and actions and as a result of that the pension of MTNL retirees has not yet been revised even though wage revision has been taken place long before.

  
MATHIAS J S  
CS MEA

  
B.R. Pathak  
G.S. RTOWA

  
J.S. Yadav  
e.SCTEAM

  
(S.G. Pawar)  
MTNL Pensioners  
Welfare Association

**MTNL EMPLOYEES AND EXECUTIVE CADRES AND RETIREES TOGETHER ARE FIGHTING AGAINST THIS INJUSTICE, DISCRIMINATION.**


**Fear & grievance of MTNL employees for insecurity of pension**


- (1) MTNL employees were told in writing at the time of absorption that they would be entitled for Govt. pension if they opt for the same. Accordingly they opted for the same. Initially DOT asked MTNL to pay the pension as a stop gap arrangement till alternate suitable arrangement is made. The same stop gap arrangement continues till today as DOT / Govt is reluctant to take over. MTNL continues to pay the pension from its own resources which , as an arrangement, is irregular. Having its financial position turning from bad to worse, MTNL Management is very candid to say, " Forget pension revision, the payment of pension itself may be stopped at any time, unless DOT comes forward."
- (2) Just to avoid the pension liability, DOT proposes to MTNL to form Pension Trust and arrange to pay pension from the Trust. The MTNL employees are strongly against such arrangement. They genuinely feel that DOT/Govt, in the process of forming the Trust, is trying to evade the responsibility and liability of pension for its erstwhile employees and thus trying to throw their pension prospect into deep den of insecurity. THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THIS AND THEY ARE PROTESTING AGAINST THIS.


**Important points to be noted**

- (1) The terms and conditions of MTNL absorption does not indicate that the Govt. pension will be paid by the Trust. To the DOT employees who opted for MTNL and Govt. pension, the clear cut understanding was that Govt. pension to be paid by the Govt. There was no mention about Trust at that time. In fact for their counterpart in BSNL, Govt. pension is paid by the Govt. The talk of Trust came long after exercising option. Thus this is in violation of terms and conditions.
- (2) There was a clear assurance from the then Hon'ble Minister (C&IT) that there will be no Distinction between MTNL and BSNL pension and this assurance was conveyed to MTNL by DOT in writing. **This assurance should not be flouted.**
- (3) In response to the question in Rajya Sabha, the above sated assurance was conveyed. **This should not be dishonoured.**
- (4) We have never accepted the position that the pay scales are any determining factor for deciding whether Govt. pension would be granted or not. This is evident from the following two examples :-
  - (a) The pay scales of BSNL employees are quite different from the pay scales of the comparable cadres in DOT. BSNL pay scales are higher. But the employees of BSNL are entitled to the Govt. pension being paid by the Govt. from the consolidated Fund of India as in DOT.

  
MATHUR J J  
CS MEA

  
B.R. PATHAK  
G.S. RTOWA

  
J.S. Yadav  
C.S (TEAM)

  
(S.G. PAWAR)  
MTNL PENSIONERS'  
Welfare Association

- (b) The pay scale of BSNL are different from the pay scales of Airport Authority of India . But the employees of AAI are entitled to the same Govt. pension payable By the Govt. as in the case of BSNL employees.

**Regarding Pension Revision for Pre 2007 Pensioners:**

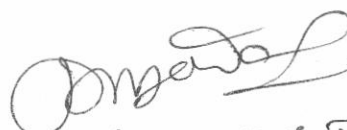
While BSNL pensioners retired prior to 1.1.2007 got their pension revised as per the Govt. rules The MTNL Management did not move any proposal to revise the Pension even after continuous persuasion by the Pensioners Associations in writing as well as discussing the matter personally with concerned Directors/Officers in MTNL. Even after directions from Shri. Gurudas Kamat Ji, the then MOS(C&IT) in April, 2011 for taking immediate action for revision of Pension of MTNL Pensioners, MTNL management took nearly 15 months to move the files.


**Regarding Pay Revision fitment @ 78.2 % of IDA as per DPEs order:**


While we are on the organisational programme demanding fitment of pay at 78.2 % as per the DPE orders, MTNL management decides to deceive us by submitting unilaterally drafted unsigned minutes of meeting dt 12.7.2012 even without showing it to United Forum of MTNL. We are constrained to point out that the minutes thus provided by MTNL to RLC, New Delhi during conciliation meeting on 13.7.2012 doesn't reflect accurately the discussions held in the said meeting and may give rise to wrong impression about our position vis-à-vis the issues discussed. Following are the points calling for objection;


- (1) United Forum of MTNL never accepted the position that the pay scales are any determining factor for deciding whether Govt. pension would be granted or not.
- (2) This point was not raised at the time of deciding the pay scales in MTNL, nor before the Wage Commission. Even before deciding the pay scales, DOT/Govt. differentiated between BSNL and MTNL pensions.
- (3) As regards 78.2% neutralization of IDA, it should not be clubbed with the issue of pension. We can't accept this. The neutralization of 78.2% IDA is non-negotiable. Being mandatory, the MTNL management is bound to implement the orders of DPE dated 02-04-2009 regarding neutralization of 78.2% IDA instead of 68.8%.

Rally scheduled at New Delhi and Mumbai on 18.7.2012 will be an eye opener for the Govt functionaries who are trying to cheat and deny justified pension benefits for which all the members of United Forum of MTNL (UFOM) who had joined DoT and continue to serve DoT/MTNL for nearly three decades. This Rally will send a message to Govt/DoT/MTNL that they can't go back from the assurances given by them through in and outside Parliament by Govt of India and expose its intension of cheating. We request your media to publish this shameful act of Gol/DoT/MTNL in your esteemed media and save us from this trap.

  
MATHUR J J  
C/S O&A

  
B. R. PATHAK  
G.S. - RTDWA

  
J. S. Yadav  
C-S (TEAM)

  
(S. G. PAWAR)  
MTNL Pensioners  
Welfare Association.