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**Bhakta Charan Das**

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Kalahandi

Date:-06.09.2013  
DO. MP/LS/891/13

*Respected Gulam Nabi Azadji,*

I am forwarding herewith a letter along with its enclosures received from Shri A.K. Kaushik, General Secretary, Telecom Executive's Association of MTNL, Dwarka, New Delhi requesting for your kind assistance for extending CGHS benefits to MTNL absorbtees.

The DOT employees who have been absorbed in MTNL have not been given the option of CGHS facilities as such they have been deprived of the CGHS facilities for the company health care scheme as well while the same option was given to the DOT employees who opted for BSNL including retirees. An office memorandum no. C.14012/11/2003-CGHS dated 18.08.2009 of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Health & Family Welfare (copy enclosed) relates to Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 01.05.1998 for extending the CGHS benefit to the PSU absorbtees on restoration of their 1/3rd portion of their pension on expiry of 15 years from the date of retirement. These absorbtees were earlier denied the CGHS benefits as they opted for 100% commutation of pension under the plea that they were no more drawing the Government's pension. According to the Hon'ble SC, these absorbtees go back their entitlement of CGHS benefits on restoration of 1/3rd of their pension.

Therefore, you are requested to look into this matter and issue necessary instructions to the concern unit of the department to give a similar option to the absorbed employees of the MTNL including the retirees.

With regards,

Yours,

(Bhakta Charan Das)

**Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad**

Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare,  
Govt. of India,  
Nirman Bhawan,  
New Delhi.

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# Team Executives' Association of MTNL

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No. TEAM/CHQ/MTNL/CO/2013-14/48

Dated : 03.09.2013

To

Shri Bhakta Charan Dass Ji,

Member Parliament (Lok Sabha),

5, Mahadev Road, New Delhi-110001

**Subject :- Extension of CGHS benefits to MTNL absorbees.**

Sir,

MTNL absorbees are originally DOT recruits and they were entitled to CGHS benefits while on the DOT roll, i.e., prior to absorption in MTNL. During the process of absorption, while exercising the option for absorption in MTNL, the option opportunity was not given to the MTNL absorbees as to whether they would opt for retaining the CGHS benefits even after absorption. Thus for MTNL absorbees, the MTNL scheme of healthcare provisions was made a fate accompli. Whereas for absorption in BSNL, the BSNL absorbees were given an opportunity to opt between CGHS benefits and BSNL scheme of healthcare benefits. No wonder that many BSNL absorbees and retirees enjoy the CGHS benefits even after absorption.

**Therefore, for the sake of providing equal opportunity and to avoid discrimination, MTNL absorbees should be given an opportunity to opt between CGHS benefits and MTNL healthcare benefits even at this stage.**

As already stated, the MTNL absorbees (both working as well as retirees) are now entitled to MTNL scheme of healthcare benefits which, for hospitalization cases, are in form of a Group health Insurance Scheme with United Insurance Company. This is, to say the least, is inadequate and unsatisfactory. As the insured amount is less, in most of the cases, even 40% of the hospital bill can not be paid by TPA/Insurance Company. Floater part of the scheme is on the verge of collapse. With the dwindling financial condition of MTNL, the concerned hospital refused to hand over the body as full payment could not be paid. Neighbours came to rescue.

**The basic question in this regard is, why MTNL absorbees who are entitled to Govt. scheme of pension (without the provision of 100% commutation), should not be entitled to CGHS benefits ?**

Contd...page 2

