

United Forum of Executives and Non-Executives of MTNL

Central Head Quarters, New Delhi

Ref:UF/MTNL/Pension/ 09-10/01

Dated at ND the 08 July 2009.

To

Shri Prithviraj Chavan

Hon'ble Minister of state for Personnel ,Public grievances and Pension.

Govt of India

New Delhi.

Subject: Abnormal delay in settlement of pension in MTNL at par with BSNL.

Respected Sir

The United Forum of MTNL is representing the working & retired executives and non-executives of Delhi & Mumbai. We are erstwhile DOT employees absorbed in MTNL. When Options for absorption were called for by DOT in Nov.1998 for non-executives (Group C&D employees) and in October 2000 for Group A & B officers. At the time of absorption, we had been assured that the pension on superannuation would be paid to us by Govt. as per Govt. pension rules (CCS Pension Rules) and the modalities in this regard will be decided.

But later-on DOT has issued an order where in MTNL was asked to discharge the pension liabilities as an interim measure till the modalities are being decided. The DOT vide letter No.40-29/2002-Pen(T) dated 29th August 2002 had categorically informed that the Finance as well as Pension department are principally agreed and only modalities are to be decided. Later on also same assurance was given to the Parliament vide letter No. 38-6/2002-PEN(T) Dated 11-08-2003 that there will be no discrimination in MTNL & BSNL as far as payment of pension is concerned.

Your good self may be aware that payment of pension to the employees/ officers absorbed in MTNL is being paid by MTNL from its own fund for last more than 10 years while it was to be paid by government, as in BSNL as per terms and conditions of absorption and many written assurances of DOT. Now after a long period, we understand that DOT has recommended the pension in MTNL at par with BSNL and your good self has been kind enough to approve the recommendation of DOT. But we have come to know that it is still pending for the approval of govt.

We wish to bring to your kind notice that this abnormal delay will not only affect the uninterrupted payment of pension and other post retirement benefits of retired employees/officers but also affect the salary and other benefits of MTNL serving employees, because a huge amount (about 400 Cr) of its profit is being paid for pensionary benefits in addition to about 600 Cr which is being paid by MTNL to Govt. as license fee, dividend and tax. Because of this burden, MTNL's financial viability has come under threat and situation has become so worse that MTNL has not implemented the Govt. orders of pay revision while same has been implemented in almost all profit making PSUs. This continuing delay in deciding pension at par with BSNL has created heart burning, resentment, frustration and demoralization amongst the 50,000 executives and employees of MTNL and their families too.

We would like to inform you that a committee of group of secretaries has been constituted by the government to look into as well as to resolve the pension issue of DOT employees absorbed in MTNL at par with the DOT employees absorbed in BSNL. The Secretary of Department of pension and Pension welfare is one of the key member of this committee. We would further like to inform you that the Dept of Telecom is of the firm opinion that the pension payment to the absorbed DOT employees of MTNL should also get the pension at par with absorbed DOT employees in BSNL, accordingly the Dept of telecom has recommended our case of pension at par with BSNL to the committee of group of secretaries.

In view of the above, we earnestly request your good self to use your good office to expedite and resolve the pension case of absorbed employees of MTNL at par with BSNL.

We also request your honour to grant us a meeting so that we can place our request in person. Sir, the absorbed DOT employees in MTNL (working as well as retired) and their families will ever remain grateful to your good self for this kind favour.

With regards

Yours' sincerely

sd/-

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sd/-

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Gen Secy, MEA