

BRIEF NOTES

[Submitted to HM (C & IT) during meeting on 04.2.2011]

MTNL was incorporated in April,1986.

Group "C" & "D" cadres of DOT were absorbed in MTNL w.e.f. 1.11.98

Group "C" & "D" cadres of DOT were absorbed in BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000

Group "B" Officers of DOT were absorbed in MTNL & BSNL w.e.f. 1.10.2000

Presidential orders for absorption of Group "C" & "D" and Group "B" Officers of DOT for absorption in BSNL and MTNL were issued almost simultaneously batch by batch during the period : February 2001 to 2003.

Thus it can be seen that even though MTNL and BSNL were incorporated on different dates and years, absorption of DOT officials were notified through Presidential Orders on nearby dates w.e.f. different dates as stated above.

Prior to absorption in BSNL and MTNL, these DOT officials were governed by the same pension rules i.e., CCS(Pension)Rules,1972 , pension being payable by Government.

After absorption, the two sets of the same DOT officials, one absorbed in BSNL and the other in MTNL, were provided with two widely different pension schemes. For BSNL, all absorbees have only one type of pension, i.e., Government pension on combined service payable by the Government,

Whereas for MTNL absorbees three types of pension schemes were prescribed and pension will not be paid by the Government but by MTNL from the fund.

This is discrimination against MTNL absorbees. They are aggrieved at this. This is also a discrimination against the MTNL as an organization and this hits MTNL financially.

MTNL absorbees had been protesting against this unfair provision of pension rules prescribed for them. They feel that they have been deprived of the secured pension which is the security in their old age and which they legitimately deserve because of their long service in DOT.

It may be noted that if MTNL absorbees are provided with the same pension as in BSNL, the amount of their pension will remain the same i.e., no additional financial implication. The only difference is that their pension also will be payable by the Government instead of Fund..

On two occasions, there were interventions from Hon'ble MOC &IT to find solution of this matter. On 20.8.2002, Hon'ble MOC &IT discussed 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 seeking absorption in MTNL and the other in BSNL.

Again 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 not be no distinction between BSNL and MTNL pension.

On 6.12.2007, the matter was again 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 again 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.

o Despite all this, MTNL pension matter is not yet resolved.

o Presently the position of payment of MTNL pension and BSNL pension is as follows :

(a) The absorbed Group "C" & "D" employees of MTNL on retirement are to get pension from MTNL Trust

(b) The absorbed officers of MTNL on retirement are to get pension from the Trust to be constituted by DOT

But in actuality all MTNL absorbees on retirement are being paid pension by MTNL from its Salary head.

Whereas in BSNL, the absorbees on retirement are being paid pension by the Government.