



# BHARAT PENSIONERS' SAMAJ

ESTABLISHED IN : 1955

(All India Federation of Pensioners' Associations)  
(Registered No. 2023 of 1962-63)

Member International Federation on Ageing, Montreal (Canada)

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No. BPS/BDPA (I)/Medical/2020dated 31<sup>st</sup>, December, 2020

To:

**Hon'ble Shri Narendrabhai Modi Ji,**

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Govt. of India,

7 Race Course Road, New Delhi – 110 001

Sub: Day-light exploitation of BSNL Pensioners in the matter of extending medical facility by willfully depriving them from the payment of their Medical Payment since last three years and succumbing to the pressure of Working Employees' Pressure tactics.

Hon'ble Sir,

1. We are fully aware of the fact that virtually since last one year, country is combating all negative hazardous ill effects of pandemic Covid-19. The present government is taking all precautionary steps to save the senior citizens extending them all necessary infrastructure to avail medical facilities and we are receiving desired positive results as well. The Ministry of Health introduced multifarious facilities for making medical facilities with easiest way covering all senior citizens at their door-step.
2. In the year 2000, when DoT was converted into BSNL, an agreement was signed to extend have separate provision for Medical Treatment for BSNL Employees and BSNL Pensioners. In the year 2003, BSNL Board notified its own rules for Medical Reimbursement for BSNL Employees and BSNL Pensioners.
3. Since the BSNL Pensioners were facing humiliations and ill treatment by BSNL Offices, the BSNL Pensioners Association requested for payment of Out-door Medical Treatment in Cash without producing the voucher. The BSNL Board was pleased to accept the demand considering its all-financial aspects and BSNL Board in 2009 passed the revised proposal and issued the orders reducing the amount for outdoor treatment without furnishing vouchers. The arrangements made, worked satisfactorily till 2017-18.
4. All of a sudden, BSNL Corporate stopped to release funds for In-door/Out-door and quarterly medical reimbursement without vouchers, on the plea that BSNL is running in financial loss and can not spare funds and to justify its action also started to delay disbursement of regular salary of its working employees.

5. Since your office was ceased to see pouring numerous grievances from the BSNL Pensioners Association and Working Unions, appointed a committee to revamp BSNL

financial condition. In the month of October 2018, in consultation and agreement with working Unions, a VRS-2019 scheme was launched and in the month of January 2019, more than 78,000 BSNL Employees who opted the scheme were struck of the BSNL Pay Roll, reducing the expenditure drastically.

6. In the year 2018-19, 2019-20 and till this date, BSNL Corporate have not paid any bill for BSNL Pensioners for In-door/Out-door and payment without vouchers, making the pensioners to suffer in pandemic days. On one side, the Govt. advises the Sr. Citizens to confined to their homes offering numerous medical facilities, we are deprived our due payment on the plea no fund available! It may kindly be noted that the BSNL Pensioners are not at responsible for the present management of Company by its Board of Directors.
7. The DoT is from time-to-time monitor situation and also extends all possible assistance to have smooth running of the Company and now BSNL Board is able to make payment of salary in the next month. This has become possible, as MOC Office is continuously monitoring the working of BSNL.
8. Since there was possibility of sparing funds, the BSNL Working Employees pressurized the Board for pending medical bills of its employees up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. We were shocked to learn that in stead of maintaining parity between employees and pensioners, BSNL Board agreed to release fund BSNL Pensioners up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. We strongly express our anguish and displeasure towards step-motherly treatment meted out to the BSNLL Pensioners.
9. It may be mentioned here that now majority of BSNL Pensioners are switching over to CGHS Scheme, as offered by DoT, treating BSNL Pensioners as they receive their Pension from Central Govt. Here also we find difficulty, as for Pensioner after ten to fifteen years after retirement, it is nearly difficult to spare huge amount for C.G.H.S Subscription, which he has to pay the same from his Pension or manage through his friends/relatives and the amount is reimbursed after long time to him by BSNL.
10. We had suggested that all willing BSNL Pensioners should be issued C.G.H.S. Card and its payment should be made by the Company. If it is practically not possible, BSNL and DoT should negotiate with Health Ministry to receive the amount in instalment from BSNL, this will relieve the BSNL from further financial burden towards medical expenditure.

We, therefore, request to kindly consider our following prayer so as to make our retired life comfortable as our several representation to MOC, DoT and BSNL could not yield any fruitful result.

- 1) To instruct the BSNL Board to stop step-motherly treatment towards to the BSNL Pensioners and effect the reimbursement of Medical Facility at par with Working Employees and pay the medical bills up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
- 2) To instruct BSNL Board to maintain parity of payment to its working employees and BSNL Pensioners.

- 3) To instruct to examine our proposal of permitting willing BSNL Pensioners to C.G.H.S. and effecting its payment by BSNL Board to Health Ministry in consulting with DoT.
- 4) Further, those BSNL Pensioners who are opting for outdoor medical payment without vouchers should be given the fixed medical payment @ Rs.1000/- with their Pension through CCA and collecting the same from BSNL by introducing suitable mechanism.

We hope our prayer will receive sympathetic and humanitarian consideration by your august office.

With Regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(D.D. MISTRY)

Secretary BSNL/PSU

Bharat Pensioner Samaj.

Copy to:

1. Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, MOC, New Delhi
2. The Secretary, DoT, New Delhi.
3. Dr. Jitendra Prasad, MOS, PMO New Delhi.
4. DR. HARSH VARDHAN, HON'BLE CABINET MINISTER Room No. 348; 'A' Wing, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi-110011