



# Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

Reg.No: SOCIETY/WEST/2021/8902564

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**SNPWA/CHQ/DPE/1/2026 Dated: 16 March 2026**

To  
**Shri K. Moses Chalai**  
Secretary  
Department of Public Enterprises  
Government of India  
New Delhi

Sub: **Strong protest against Para 5 of DPE O.M. No. W-02/0037/2025-DPE (WC)/FTS-14505 – Attempt to link inflation-indexed DR increase with fiscal considerations – Patently Absurd, Manifestly Irrational and Completely Perverse.**

Sir,

Kindly refer to the \_Office Memorandum No. W-02/0037/2025-DPE (WC)/FTS-14505 dated ... February 2026\_ issued by the Department of Public Enterprises regarding the increase of Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners.

We express our **deep anguish, grave concern, and unequivocal protest and condemnation against Para 5 of the said O.M.**, wherein the administrative Ministries have been directed to issue orders on IDA increase **after taking into account fiscal implications.**

Sir, even the **most ardent votaries of fiscal prudence and deficit containment would not advocate such a perverse and irrational mechanism** as is contained in the said order, **which conflates two entirely distinct and diametrically opposite concepts by attempting to link a mechanism designed to neutralise inflation (DR) with fiscal considerations .**

Such a proposition is, to say the least, **patently absurd, manifestly irrational, and completely devoid of any sound logic or administrative rationale.**

This stipulation is **totally unprecedented, contrary to the well-established principles governing Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief, and gravely detrimental to the legitimate rights of pensioners.**

Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief is neither a **discretionary benefit nor a concession extended at the pleasure of the Government.** It is a well-recognised and time-tested mechanism of inflation neutralisation, linked exclusively to the All India Consumer Price Index. Its sole purpose is to **compensate employees and pensioners for the erosion in the real value of their income caused by inflation.**

Therefore, **linking DA/DR increases to fiscal considerations or the financial condition of any organisation is fundamentally flawed and completely alien to the very concept of inflation neutralisation.**

With utmost respect, we must ask:

***How can a pensioner, who has already retired from service, be held responsible for the rise in prices in the country?***

***How can fiscal constraints of any organisation be invoked to deny or delay compensation for inflation which pensioners are compelled to endure every day?***

The situation becomes even more untenable in the case of pensioners of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

The following indisputable facts deserve to be placed on record:

1. BSNL/MTNL employees paid their **pension contribution to the Government at the maximum of their pay scales** , a condition not imposed on employees of other Central Government departments
2. The pension of these retirees is paid **entirely from the Consolidated Fund of India through the Department of Telecommunications**, and not by BSNL or MTNL.
3. Their pensionary benefits are governed by **Rule 37A of the CCS (Pension) Rules**, which specifically provides **full parity with Central Government pensioners**.

In the light of these statutory provisions, **it is legally indefensible and administratively irrational** to subject BSNL/MTNL pensioners to any uncertainty regarding DA/DR on the basis of the financial condition of the companies from which they retired.

It is also important to emphasise that DA/DR revision has **historically been an automatic and index-linked exercise**, implemented across the Government system **without any linkage to fiscal considerations of individual entities**.

**Para 5 of the O.M.**, therefore, introduces a dangerous, unwarranted and regressive precedent which, if allowed to stand, could potentially undermine the entire principle of inflation neutralisation for pensioners.

At a time when - **medical expenses, essential commodities, and the cost of living are rising steeply** , any delay or denial of DA/DR due from **01.01.2026** would cause severe hardship to elderly pensioners who depend solely on their pension for survival.

We must state, with a deep sense of responsibility, that pensioners of the telecom sector perceive this development as a **grave injustice and a direct assault on their hard-earned and legally protected rights**.

The Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association (SNPWA) therefore demands the **immediate withdrawal of Para 5 of the said O.M.** so that DA/DR increases continue to be released **strictly in accordance with the established index-linked mechanism without any extraneous conditions**.

We sincerely hope that the **Department of Public Enterprises will reconsider this matter with urgency and sensitivity**, keeping in view the welfare of lakhs of senior citizens who have devoted the best years of their lives to the service of the nation.

However, we are constrained to state that **if this anomalous provision is not rescinded within ten days, the Association will have no option but to launch nationwide organisational action**.

The first phase of this agitation will commence with a **massive demonstration at the CGO Complex, New Delhi**, followed by further democratic protest actions across the country.

It would indeed be most unfortunate if pensioners, in the evening of their lives, **are forced to take to the streets merely to secure a legitimate inflation-linked entitlement**.

We trust that **wisdom will prevail and that this unjust and unwarranted stipulation will be withdrawn before the situation reaches such an avoidable stage.**

Yours sincerely,



G. L. Jogi

Copy to

1. **Shri Amit Aggarwal, Secretary (Telecom)** – for kind information and necessary action. He is kindly requested to take serious cognisance of the unwarranted follow-up action reportedly initiated by DoT directing the CGCA to examine the financial implications of the above O.M., which is clearly irrational and without any legal or administrative basis.
2. **Shri Manish Sinha, Member (Finance), DoT** – for kind information and necessary action.
3. **Shri Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, Member (Services), DoT** – for kind information and necessary action.
4. **Ms Vandana Gupta, CGCA** – for kind information and necessary action.