



# Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

Reg. No: SOCIETY/WEST/2021/8902564

CHQ: B-11/1, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, India



snpwachq.com



snpwachq@gmail.com

**K.D Sebastian**  
CHQ President  
+91 9447144100

**G.L.Jogi**  
General Secretary  
+91 9868217799

**S.S. Rajput**  
Treasurer  
+91 9413394204

SNPWA/CHQ/DPE/2/2026

Dated: 23rd I March 2026

To

K. Moses Chalai,

Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises

Government of India

New Delhi

**Sub: Dearness Relief of more than 4 lakh BSNL/MTNL pensioners, drawing pension from the Consolidated Fund of India, has been stopped due to the highly perverse, capricious, arbitrary, and wholly absurd Para 5 incorporated in the DPE O.M. dated February 2026.**

**This reflects a complete lack of application of mind on the part of the Senior Economic Advisor/DPE and warrants appropriate administrative censure and corrective action, so as to ensure that such whimsical and ill-conceived decisions, based on vitiated reasoning, are not repeated in future.**

**Respected Sir,**

We, once again, invite your kind attention to the *Office Memorandum No. W-02/0037/2025-DPE (WC)/FTS-14505* issued by the Department of Public Enterprises regarding revision of IDA-based Dearness Relief.

At the outset, we wish to submit, with utmost clarity and emphasis, that the **provisions contained in Para 5 of the said O.M. have absolutely no applicability to BSNL/MTNL pensioners whose pension is administered by the Department of Telecommunications, under the statutory provisions of Rule 37A, CCS Pension Rules, 1972. Yet, DoT has opted to take undue and uncalled-for shelter under this manifestly perverse and untenable provision. under para**

**(5) of the said order and lost no time to stop Dearness Relief of more than 4 lakh Pensioners of BSNL/ MTNL .**

### **1. Status of BSNL/MTNL Pensioners – A Settled Administrative and Legal Position**

BSNL/MTNL absorbees are **deemed Central Government pensioners under Rule 37A of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 .**

Their pension is paid **from the Consolidated Fund of India** through DoT—not by any CPSE.

They **enjoy full parity with Central Government pensioners** in all pensionary matters.

This distinct status clearly separates them from other CPSE

### **3. Nature of Dearness Relief**

Dearness Relief is:

- \* **A statutory, inflation-neutralisation measure**
- \* **Exclusively index-linked to AICPI**
- \* **Automatically payable** , once rates are notified
- \* **Totally unrelated and unconnected to profitability/ losses** of BSNL.

It is neither **discretionary nor subject to fiscal conditionalities .**

### **4. Fundamental Error in Introduction of Para 5**

While Para 5 of the DPE O.M. may have limited relevance in the context of CPSEs, **its application—directly or indirectly—to DoT pensioners is wholly misconceived and legally untenable**, since:

- \* The liability is that of the **Government of India** and the **DOT**
- \* Payment is from the **Consolidated Fund of India**
- \* No CPSE financial implication arises

### **5. Grave Consequence of an Ill-Conceived Action**

We are constrained to record that the **absurd and thoughtless action** at the level of senior functionaries in DPE, including the Senior Economic Advisor, has resulted in a most anomalous situation.

By introducing and applying the stipulation in Para 5, **Dearness Relief to BSNL pensioners—who are, in fact, DoT pensioners—has effectively been brought to a standstill .**

This is not a mere procedural deviation, **but a serious aberration**, which:

- \* **Ignores statutory provisions** under Rule 37A
- \* **Disregards settled judicial pronouncements**

\* Disrupts a **long-standing, automatic, index-linked system**

\* **Contemptuously disregards** oft repeated assertions from Hon PMs office and from DOP& PW that Administrative Ministries should ensure **seamless and timely payments to Pensioners**

## **6. Continuing Hardship and Administrative Inaction**

It is a matter of serious concern that:

\* DR due from **01.01.2026** remains unreleased

\* The DPE orders on IDA increase have not yet been **endorsed by DoT to CGCA** , which is a mandatory procedural requirement. DoT's failure to endorse the order to CGCA, citing Para 5, is as untenable and irrational as the very provision itself.

\* The anomaly, despite being evident, **continues uncorrected**

The result is **avoidable hardship and anxiety to lakhs of elderly pensioners across the country.**

## **7. Contrary to Government's Stated Policy**

This situation runs contrary to the consistent and compassionate policy approach of the Government of India.

The **Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare** have repeatedly emphasized that:

*Pensioners and senior citizens must be treated with utmost care, dignity, and concern, particularly in matters relating to pension.*

The present state of affairs, unfortunately, does not reflect these guiding principles.

## **8. A Matter of Equity and Administrative Responsibility**

It is difficult to comprehend why a settled and routine matter is being subjected to avoidable delay and uncertainty .

***Those who have served the nation with dedication cannot be subjected, in their advancing years, to such avoidable distress over a legitimate and statutory entitlement .***

**It is equally a matter of reflection that:**

***every serving authority is a future pensioner —and the precedents set today will shape the security of tomorrow.***

## **9. Our Demand**

In view of the above, we strongly urge that:

**1. Para 5 of the DPE O.M. be suitably clarified/revised to explicitly exclude DoT-administered pensioners.**

2. The Department of Telecommunications be **immediately directed to endorse the IDA/DR orders to CGCA** without linking them to any fiscal considerations.

3. **Dearness Relief due from 01.01.2026 be released** forthwith, restoring the established, automatic mechanism.

### **Conclusion**

The issue is **clear, settled, and beyond dispute.**

The continued delay only reinforces a perception of **avoidable and unjustified administrative indifference.**

We, therefore, call upon the Department of Public Enterprises **to act decisively and without further delay** to rectify this anomaly and uphold the legitimate rights and dignity of BSNL/MTNL pensioners.

Yours Sincerely



**(G. L. Jogi)**

General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Sh Amit Agarwal, Secretary, DoT with a **fervent request to take immediate corrective action and suitably admonish the erring officials in DOT who, by shirking their responsibilities, and for no reason whatsoever, have caused immense hardship to lakhs of senior and ailing pensioners. These pensioners seek and deserve—not even compassion, but at the very least—basic justice, which is being conveniently denied under the cover of untenable reasoning, or rather, a complete absence of it.**

2. Sh Deb Kumar Chakrabarti, M( S)/ DOT, for kind information and n/ a please

3. **Sh Manish Sinha, M( F). Sir on which grounds has DOT stopped endorsement of the said order to CGCA. Not endorsing the said order is not only untenable but, to say the least, ridiculous, and clearly an affront to the instructions from Hon PMs office regarding how issues of Pensioners should be treated and dealt with, and also adversely reflects on the manner in which DOT/ Finance arbitrarily functions**

4. MS Vandana Gupta, CGCA, for kind information and n/ a pl.