



Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

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SNPWA/SECDOT/2/2020m

Dated 3rd August,2020.

To,

Sh. Anshu Prakash,
Secretary DOT,
Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.

Sub: Retention of quarters by retired absorbed employees of BSNL/MTNL, keeping in view the existing deadly situation due to Covid pandemic.

Respected Sir,

We invite your kind attention to the fact that consequent upon a huge number of employees, opting for VRS scheme 2019, in response to the Government's decision, to considerably size down manpower in BSNL/MTNL, a sizable number of BSNL residential quarters are currently unoccupied at most of the places, with no eligible claimants for the same. It is under this condition that the BSNL/MTNL Managements are exerting pressure on the present occupants to vacate the same or face drastic punishments, including heavy penal interests. In this connection, we would like to bring the following points for your kind notice and necessary action:

1. The vacant quarters, when left unoccupied will fetch the Companies absolutely no revenues at a point of time, when the Companies are precariously impoverished and financially virtually bankrupt.
2. The Managements of these Companies, completely ignoring the prevailing deadly situation, are forcing retired officials, particularly VRS optees, to vacate their quarters. When there is already an unprecedented exodus from these Companies, due to VRS, we are unable to understand as to what are the compulsions on the Managements of these companies to coerce people to vacate their quarters, even at places where there is no waiting list. These retired officials who till yesterday were an integral part of these Companies and are in the prime of their lives are being abandoned and exterminated, along with their families, by exposing them to the vagaries of the most dangerous pandemic in the history of the world, Covid19. It is best remembered that this is a time,

when they cannot go out in search of some rented houses nor is anyone going to provide them accommodation to put themselves and their families in. Quite aware of all these factual and lethal realities, the Managements seem to be enjoying some cruel joke on these hapless pensioners and their innocent families.

3. It is also pertinent to point out that innumerable retired ITS officers are still staying in the quarters allotted during their service, even after more than 3 years of their retirement. Whereas this facility is being provided to those who have all along been deputationists and were never an integral part of the Company, ironically it is being denied to those who were a part and parcel of the Company and have put in their best years of their life serving the Company selflessly and without any vested interest. It is sad and completely incomprehensible as to how absorbed and bona fide employees of the Company are being continued to be blatantly discriminated vis-à-vis unabsorbed employees of the Company who never have had any stake in the Company and its fortunes at any point. It ought to have been vice versa. This only adversely reflects on the very functioning and policies of the top management of the Company. We are not advocating or asking for pushing out the retired ITS officers but just pointing out the height of cruelty dealt out to the absorbed employees.
4. We would also like to point out that in most places more than 40 per cent of the quarters remain unoccupied. It is therefore only in the interest of the Company that the retirees may be permitted to continue to keep their residential quarters at normal rent till situation improves to the extent to enable them to find accommodation outside and this is going to benefit the Company as well as take care of humanitarian aspect of the VRS retirees. It is going to be nothing but a win - win opportunity.
5. We further want to mention that any step to coerce them to vacate the quarters at this deadly hour or impose penal rent can only be termed as a hostile, inhuman and completely insensitive attitude of the Managements, Completely devoid of any kind of concern or sensitivity towards those who just till yesterday were part and parcel of the Companies, having made incredible contribution towards the growth of these companies in most difficult times and turbulent conditions. This coercive action is also going to be counterproductive in terms of optimum utilization of the existing assets of the companies.

It is, therefore, requested that your good self may kindly intervene to ensure justice and mere justice is met out to the retirees and their hapless families by permitting them to retain the residential quarters at normal rates at places where the quarters continue to be vacant. In fact, needless to say, absorbed retired employees must be accorded highest priority and precedence over unabsorbed retired employees when it comes to retention of residential quarters or for that matter extending any other facility. We believe and are confident that your good self will fully recognize and acknowledge very strong justification, cited above by us, and immediately issue necessary instructions in this direction to the Managements of

these Companies. We are not asking for infringement of existing rules but wherever quarters are vacant, retired absorbed employees must be allowed to continue at normal rates, keeping in view the deadly pandemic situation that is prevailing. Forcing them to vacate their quarters in this situation would be nothing but pushing them and their innocent families into the jaws of death. No one expects Management of any organization to lose human touch to the extent where the retirees and their children are deliberately pushed out of their quarters, fully conscious of the inevitable lethal consequences that such an action would have on the retirees and their hapless families. This is nothing but extremely sad and painful.

With kind regards

G. L. Jogi

General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Sh. P. K. Purwar CMD BSNL/MTNL for necessary action please.
2. Sh. Arvind Vardnerkar, Director(HR)/BSNL, for immediate necessary action please.
3. Sh. A.K Gupta, GM(SR), for necessary action please.