



राष्ट्र हित

विभाग हित

अधिकारी हित

All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Central Headquarter, New Delhi

(The Recognised Representative Association of BSNL)

(Affiliated to BMS)



Regn. no. HR/019/2018/02138

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GS / AIGETOA / 2023 - 24 / 24

Dated 05.07.2023

To,
Shri Ashwini Vaishnav Ji
Hon'ble Minister of Communication
Government of India
20, Sanchar Bhavan
New Delhi-110001

Sub: Exercising option for Old Pension Scheme and most humble request to grant one time option to be covered under the CCS (Pension) rules 1972 for the executives whose recruitment process as Telecom technical Assistants was initiated by DoT in the year 1999 before formation of BSNL- Reg.

Ref:

- 1. TTA RRs 1999(Amendment)-Gazette of India dated 25.10.99 vide G.S.R.No.718 (E).**
- 2. DOP&PW OM No: 57/05/2021-P&PW(B) dated 03.03.2023, which was circulated by the DOT endorsement no 36-03/2019-Pen(T) I/3096083/2023 dated 17.4.2023.**
- 3. DOT letter No 19-14/2000-EW dated 8.8.2002**
- 4. CGM KL Circle letters ST III/13-3/2002 dated 7.6.2002 and 05.07.2002**

Respected Sir,

All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association is an association affiliated to Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and is the recognized representative association for executives in BSNL. **We would like to highlight the issue of granting one time option to be covered under CCS Pension 1972 rules for some executives of BSNL whose recruitment process as Telecom Technical Assistant has been started by DoT in 1999 before formation of BSNL, in light of the facts as stated below:**

1. These executives were appointed as TTAs at in various circles of BSNL. **The TTA recruitment process began in 1999 under the Open Direct Recruitment notification for the posts of TTAs by Department of Telecom.** Many of the executives who applied for the post, got selected based on the notification issued by the Department of Telecom in the month of July 2000. The competitive examination for the recruitment to the cadre of TTA was held on 18.11.2000 & 19.11.2000. The said post was classified as Telecom Technical Assistant (CCS Pension Rules 1972, Group-C, Non-Gazetted, Non-Ministerial) under the DOT TTA Recruitment Rules 1999.

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2. At the time of their appointment, the telecom services under DOT were being taken over by BSNL. Initially, they were paid as per the CDA pay scale 4500-125-7000 with GPF facility. Later, their pay scale was replaced with the IDA scale and EPF scheme by BSNL.

3. **Their eligibility and seniority for the above-recruited post were for the vacancies that arose during the DOT period of 1999. They have applied for the TTA vacancy as per the terms and conditions notified by DOT RR 1999. If the selection and appointment procedures had been followed exactly as mentioned in the recruitment notification, they would have been covered under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, just like the Junior Engineer (Electrical) candidates of Kerala Telecom Circle who were recruited for vacancies in DOT under DOT JE RR 1999 and appointed in BSNL in 2002 but there recruitment covered the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 even though they appointed after the appointment of these TTAs. DOT & BSNL letters regarding JE Electrical recruitment are enclosed herewith.** However, these representations of similarly recruited candidates to be covered under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 were not favourably considered by BSNL.

4. In light of the recent application of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 versus NPS for central government employees, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&PW) has issued OM DOP&PW OM No 57/05/2021-P &PW(B) dated 03/03/2023. The OM states that central government civil employees who were appointed against a post or vacancy advertised/notified for recruitment/appointment prior to the date of notification for the National Pension System (NPS) i.e., 22.12.2003, and are covered under NPS on joining service on or after 01.01.2004, may be given a one-time option to be covered under the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021). This option may be exercised by the concerned government servants latest by 31.8.2023.

5. **The principle on which the aforesaid OM has been issued is very much applicable in the case of these Telecom Technical Assistants. Their appointment as TTA would entitle them to the benefits of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 instead of the EPF scheme, as the date of notification of recruitment, vacancy year, and the year of recruitment rules were well before the cut-off date of the formation of BSNL, i.e., 01-10-2000. Furthermore, as precedence, DOT/BSNL has appointed many candidates under CCS Pension Rules 1972 even after the appointment of these TTAs, indicating that the principle behind the issue of the aforementioned OM was selectively and partially followed at that time but the same has been denied to them.**

Based on the principle of the OM and the precedence already set by DOT/BSNL, we humbly request for your kind blessings on extension one time option to these TTAs for considering their choice for the old pension scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972. This act of kindness on your part will not only extend long awaited justice to them but will also will ensure social security to the families of all such executives/employees.

Thanking you

With regards,

Sd/-

Ravi Shil Verma
General Secretary, AIGETOA

Copy to:

- 1. Shri K Rajaraman, Hon'ble Secretary DoT for kind information and intervention please.**
- 2. Shri P K Purwar Ji, CMD BSNL for kind information please.**
- 3. Shri Ravindra Himte Ji, General Secretary, Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh for kind information please.**