

o/c
MTNL EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL HEAD QUARTERS, NEW DELHI

[Affiliated to National Confederation of Officers' Associations of Central Govt. PSUs (NCOA)]

S.N.PRASAD
PRESIDENT

Res.: 20/73, MTNL Officer's Quarters
MHBC Opp. Lilawati Hospital
Bandra (West), Mumbai-400050
(M) 09869447070 (R) 022-26457070



V.K.TOMAR
GENERAL SECRETARY

Res.: 239, Ashoka Enclave Part - I
Faridabad-121003 (Haryana)
Off.: 23314320, Fax.: 23311830
(M) 09868133336 (R) 01292277100

Ref. No.: MEA/CHQ/DM/MOC+IT

DATE: 14-05-15

To

Shri Ravishankar Prasad

Hon'ble Minister of Communication & IT

Govt of India, New Delhi

Subject: Provision of another 'one time option' for pro-rata pension holders to opt for "Combined Service pension' to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) employees.

Respected sir

As you know that Mahanagar telephone Nigam Ltd, a public Sector company was carved out of the Department of telecom w.e.f 1-04-1986 in order to expand Telecommunication network in India with a vision to bring public equity required for creating infrastructure to meet global standards. The erstwhile employees (Gr C& D and A&B) who were recruited by the government of India were asked to exercise their option for absorption by 15-12-19998 & 01-05-2000 respectively in MTNL with following conditions

- a) To exercise their option for pension under rule 37 of the CCS pension rules 1972 which were available at that time and settlement of pension & other pensionary benefits and that the same shall be regulated in accordance with GOPT OM NO-4/18/87-P&PW(D) dated 5th July 1989 with the following terms & conditions as laid down under OM NO.4/18/87-P&PW(D) dated 5th July 1989.
- A. The permanent Government servant shall have an option to retain the pensionary benefits available to them under the government rules

Or

- B. To receive Pro-rata retirement benefits for the service rendered under Central Govt and to be governed by the rules of the Public sector undertaking.

A large number of Gr C & D employees and a good number of A& B officers opted for Pro-rata pension as a secured option where as the option for combined service pension was assumed less reliable and in secured option because the same was payable post retirement by MTNL through Trust or otherwise.

Pro-rata pension option was extended to A& B officers in 2005 with retrospective effect from 01-10-2000. Since then this Association was demanding to keep the option open and undecided till the govt takes final decision on the demand of employees for payment of combined pension by govt as in BSNL so that informed choice can be provided to the employees after the govt decision on pension issue. But DOT asked MTNL to close the option and decide. MTNL Management assured us on various occasions that government may provide one option to the pro-rata optees also for combined service pension under the changed scenario if govt agrees for payment of combined pension at par with BSNL

This fact is substantiated with MTNL GM (HR) letter No. MTNL/IRW/21(135)/2012 dt 21-03-2014 recommending that government may provide one option to the pro-rata optees also for combined service pension under the changed scenario (copy enclosed).

Now After a long persuasion of 13 years, keeping in view the financial condition of MTNL and long pending justified demand of employees for payment of combined pension by govt as in BSNL, Government of India vide its Gazette notification dated 03-03-2014(file No.4/23/2013-P& PW amended rule 37 of CCS pension rule 1972 by Rule 37 A sub rule (22) to (24) by inserting " Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and bringing existing pensioners and to the employees who are deemed to have retired from the government for absorption in BSNL and MTNL with an explanatory memorandum as under.

"Payment of pensionary benefits to all categories of the erstwhile employees of the Government Gr A& B , C & D absorbed in MTNL who have opted for pension on combined service will be made by government in the same manner as in BSNL w.e.f 01-10-2000. Such erstwhile Govt employees including those absorbed in MTNL w.e.f 01-11-1998 and governed vide DOP & PW OM No. 4/18/87-P & PW(D) dt 6-7-1989 shall be brought within the purview of these rules w.e.f 01-10-2000. "

But no orders/ instructions were issued for fresh option to pro-rata optee employees/officers. Than we took up the matter with MTNL management to initiate the case for fresh option to pro-rata optees for combined pension option. We were informed by GM(HR) CO vide letter no-MTNL/CO/IRW/21(135)/2014 dated 17-04-2014 that MTNL management has taken up the matter with DOT for giving fresh option vide its letter dated 21-03-2014.

Now it is more than one year that case is still pending in DOT.

In the interest of justice and to remove discrimination and disparity , government employees who have opted for "Pro-rata Pension" under rule 37 of the CCS Pension rule 1972 and were regulated with DOP& PW OM dt 05-07-1989 may be given a one time opportunity to either retain pro-rata pension under rule 37 or to switch over to new rule 37A which the government of India has enacted w.e.f 01-10-2000 vide notification dated 03-03-2014 applicable for MTNL employees with retrospective effect by setting up a time frame for both the department viz Department of pension & PW as well as Department of Telecommunication for settlement of grievances of employees who are deprived of their legitimate right of informed choice after the govt decision to pay pension from civil account to the combined service pensioners instead of pension trust .

