



# All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

## Central Headquarter, New Delhi

( The Recognised Representative Association of BSNL )

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GS/AIGETOA/2021/66

dated 31.05.2021

To

**Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Ji,**  
**Hon'ble Minister of Communication**  
**Government of India,**  
**Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi**

**Subject: Appointment of Dependent Family Members of officers/officials who met untimely death during this Covid-19 Pandemic Period under the Compassionate Appointment Scheme by treating all such deaths as death on duty and providing adequate compensation and other support measures – Reg.**

Reference: 1. GS AIGETOA letter number GS/AIGETOA/2021/64 dated 04.05.2021  
2. GS AIGETOA letter number GS/AIGETOA/2021/64 dated 27.05.2021  
3. BSNL Corporate Office Letter NO 273-18/2013/CGA/Estt IV dated 05.02.2016

**Respected Sir,**

As your good self is aware that current Pandemic of Covid-19 disease has created a havoc across the whole country, and we join our hands in praying together to get an end to this current Pandemic. We wish to reiterate our firm support and cooperation on all the endeavors taken by Government of India to ensure an end to this pandemic under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

Sir, this dreadful disease has swamped the whole country. However, BSNL and its employees have remained on frontline in this war against Covid-19 Pandemic by keeping the communications systems up and running across the whole country in the most difficult and adverse circumstances. We are also thankful to you for having recognized the role of BSNL and its employees in serving the nation during the most crucial times and support extended to BSNL from time to time.

Sir, this dreadful disease has engulfed many lives and BSNL remains no exception to it. **Almost around 200 employees have met untimely death owing to this disease. The high number of casualties of our employees in current Pandemic is an extra ordinary situation and so it needs extra ordinary decision by the Management and administrative Ministry.** It will be pertinent to mention that many executives and employees who succumbed to the disease were recruited by BSNL who neither have Government Pension nor enough SAB Pension. Their untimely deaths due to Covid have completely shattered their families. **They were mostly young in age and early in service with limited emoluments and so were not in financial comfort position and also their children are too young and in initial educations, which needs huge support to lead the life.**

Accordingly we requested BSNL management for the following vide our letter under reference:

- **Declaring of all death cases due to Covid & its related complication in BSNL "On Duty Death" as Telecom has been listed in the essential services and main reason for this huge number of**

casualties in BSNL is due to catching of infection by the employees in maintaining the essential telecom services across the country and while being on duty, when others preferred to remain indoor for their safety. Employment to the nearest dependent of the deceased employee is the minimum which BSNL should have done as it doesn't involve any extra cost for organization as all such employees were already on the role of organization. We emphasized that department would not like to earn savings to the company out of these untimely deaths which has largely happened because employee was fulfilling his responsibility towards organization and nation.

- A compensation of at least Rs 1 Crore should be extended to families of all such as being done to the families of other front line Warriors.
- The last drawn Basic plus DA should be continued to the family of the deceased employees in such cases till appointment of nearest dependent.
- Education of the children of Covid-19 deceased employees should be funded by the BSNL up to Class 12<sup>th</sup> or till appointment of dependent of the deceased employees, whichever is earlier.
- Rent Free accommodation should be provided to the family of deceased employees till appointment of the dependent.

But so far, BSNL has not come forward in an appreciable manner to compensate the loss of life of the breadwinner of the family. **BSNL has till date only announced BSNL Covid Fund (BCF ) Policy in which they have provisioned to extend a support of Rs. 10 Lacs to nearest dependents out of which 50 percent of the amount shall be contributed by employees themselves through benevolent contribution.** This meager amount is not sufficient to support the families in such time of extreme distress. Even no appreciable efforts have been taken either by the management or Department of Telecom for priorities vaccination to the BSNL employees, as front line workers, to prevent them from catching the disease.

**Provision to support such families whose bread winner meet on duty death and to relax the weightage points in case of on duty death already exists in BSNL wherein the nearest dependent of the deceased employee is given compassionate appointment at par with his/her educational qualifications without considering the weightage points.** (copy of BSNL letter no. 273-18/2013/CGA/Estt IV dated 05.02.2016 is enclosed herewith). **Considering the extra ordinary situation, the need for immediate support in the form of employment to the nearest dependents of the employees, who died during this pandemic while serving the communication needs of our beloved country is strongly felt.**

In view of the above, we request your benign intervention in directing BSNL management for considering the death of employees in Covid-19 pandemic as On duty Death and direct BSNL Management to immediately act upon providing the assistance in the form of adequate compensations and Compassionate Ground Appointment as explained above along with other support measures like providing Rent Free Accommodation to the family and bearing the expenditure of the education of their children etc.

With Warm Regards

Sd/--  
[MD.WASI AHMAD]  
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (T), Dept of Telecom, Govt of India, New Delhi for kind information pl.
2. The Chairman & Managing Director, BSNL, New Delhi for kind information please.
3. The Director (HR), BSNL Board, New Delhi for kind information and needful please.
4. The GM (SR), BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi for kind information and NA please.