

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7419
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
PENSIONS TO BSNL AND TELECOM EMPLOYEES
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has taken over the responsibility on itself of paying retirement benefits and monthly pension for all employees retiring and have retired in the past from the Department of Telecommunications and BSNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the specific reasons for which the BSNL has taken over this responsibility; and
- (d) the financial burden likely to fall on BSNL on this account yearly?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. BSNL has not taken over the responsibility on itself of paying the retirement benefit on monthly pension for all employees retiring and retired in the past from DOT and BSNL. The retirement benefits and monthly pension is being paid to the erstwhile employees of the DOT as well as to the retiring absorbed employees of BSNL by the Government. For the period of service rendered by the employees in the BSNL, the Company has to pay pension contribution as per the rates prescribed in the Fundamental Rules. Ministry of Finance, however, in Demands for Grants (Demand No. 13) has netted the entire pension payment against the pension contribution receivable from BSNL on the ground that the schedule of payments to be made by BSNL to the Government in Pension Contribution should exactly match the amounts paid in pension by the Government. The Standing Committee of Parliament on Information Technology, while examining the Demands for Grants 2002-03, has recommended that the case should be pursued by the Department of Telecom with the Ministry of Finance for appropriate rectification.

(d) The financial burden on account of pension and retirement benefits for the retired/retiring employees of DOT as well as absorbed employees retiring from BSNL has been estimated at Rs. 800 crores during 2002-03 in the Demands for Grants of the Department of Telecommunications.