

Title : Regarding need to settle pension issue of MTNL employees.

(xiv) Need to settle pension issue of MTNL employees

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL: On 1.4.1986 due to the policy of the Government to corporatise the telecom sector "Bombay Telephones and Delhi Telephones" were carved out from DoT and MTNL was formed. The employees working in the then Bombay Telephones and Delhi Telephones were sent on deemed deputation to MTNL without any deputation allowance and were assured of absorption on the floor of the House along with the formation of corporations for the rest of the Department of Telecom Services, namely, present BSNL.

In the year 1998, the Government decided to offer option to its employees who were working in MTNL on deemed deputation to either get absorbed in MTNL or to continue to work as Government employees and offered the employees three options for their pensionary benefit, namely, (i) pension as per Government rules; (ii) pro-rata pension; and (iii) contributory provident fund, *i.e.*, PSU pension. The majority of employees opted for pension as per Government rules.

In October 2000, the Government had formed BSNL and employees working in the DTS were transferred to BSNL. The employees working in DTS went on agitation on the issue of pensionary benefit. The Government issued amendment to Rule 37-A of CCS Pension Rule 1972 and inserted the sub-rule 21, which envisages the DoT employees transferred to BSNL to get the Pension and Family Pension directly from the Government.

Sir, there are only about 40,000 employees in MTNL who would be benefited by incorporating the name of MTNL in sub-rule 21 of Rule 37-A.

I request the hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology to fulfil the assurance given by the Government earlier and issue necessary notification which will encourage the employees working with MTNL on deemed deputation to opt for MTNL.