

विभाग हित

अधिकारी हित

All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Central Headquarter, New Delhi

(A Recognised Association of BSNL Executives)

(Affiliated to BMS)



President **G Veerabhadra Rao** 9440648648

राष्ट्र हित

Ravi Shil Verma 8373967633 Finance Secretary **Badri Kumar Mehta**9868183579

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GS / AIGETOA / 2024-25 /78

Dated 20.09.2024

To, Shri A Robert J Ravi, Chairman & Managing Director, Corporate Office, BSNL New Delhi-110001.

Subject: Request for Restoration of Outdoor Medical Reimbursement Ceiling for BSNL Employees and Retirees, regarding.

Ref: 1. Letter no. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/18 dated 10.07.2018. 2. Letter No. BSNL/Admn.I/15-12/18 dated 08.05.2020.

Respected Sir,

This is to bring to your kind notice that the outdoor medical reimbursement ceiling for BSNL employees and retirees was reduced vide letter dated 08.05.2020 (enclosed as Reference No. 2) to economize overall medical expenditure in view of the financial conditions of the company. The ceiling for outdoor medical claim with vouchers in a financial year was reduced from 23 days to 15 days as per order dated 10.07.2018, (enclosed as Reference No. 1). It will be pertinent to mention here that as per the original BSNLMRS policy, the annual ceiling for outdoor reimbursement was **One month's Basic Pay plus DA.** However, this limit was subsequently **reduced to 23 days and later further reduced to 15 days**."

This reduction has caused significant grievances among employees and retirees, as it has drastically limited their ability to claim reimbursement for essential medical expenses. Many employees, particularly those suffering from chronic illnesses or requiring regular medical attention, are facing severe difficulties in managing their healthcare costs within the reduced limit. Retirees, who largely depend on this facility due to limited income sources, are finding it extremely hard to meet their medical needs.

Moreover, with the rise in CGHS rates for various healthcare services and facilities, the overall cost of healthcare has increased significantly, making the current outdoor medical claim ceiling inadequate to cover the necessary expenses. As a result, employees are being forced to bear a substantial portion of their medical costs out of pocket, leading to increased financial strain.

The situation was further exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, where healthcare costs surged and employees faced additional challenges in accessing medical services. Despite these hardships, employees and retirees have continued to serve the organization with dedication, hoping for a timely rollback of this decision.

We would like to highlight that this drastic curtailment in upper ceiling, especially during COVID-19 pandemic has been persistently followed up for the rollback, in various agenda meetings of AIGETOA with the management.

In light of these circumstances, <u>we kindly request a review of the reduction in the outdoor medical reimbursement ceiling and revise the Annual Outdoor Medical Reimbursement Ceiling to One Month Basic Pay + DA for BSNL employees and retirees, as was being done earlier. This revision will help alleviate the financial burden on employees and retirees and ensure they have access to adequate healthcare services.</u>

We are very hopeful that your good-self will take this matter into consideration and address these serious concerns of employees and retirees who are facing these ongoing challenges.

We look forward to your favorable consideration of this matter.

With Regards,

Sd/[Ravi Shil Verma]
General Secretary

Copy to:

- 1] Shri Kalyan Sagar Nippani, Director (HR), BSNL Board for kind information & n/a please.
- 2] Shri S P Singh PGM (Est) BSNL CO, New Delhi for kind information & n/a please.
- 3] Shri Sanjeev Tyagi, PGM (Admin), BSNL CO, New Delhi for kind information & n/a please.
- 4] Smt Anita Johri PGM (SR), BSNL CO for kind information & n/a please.