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Request to confer your precious time to discuss the most important issues of staff welfare of AIR & Doordarshan with ARTEE / Associations.

1 message

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22 July 2021 at 14:52

To: minister.inb@gov.in, anuragthakur.mp@sansad.nic.in

ASSOCIATION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES (ARTEE)

Largest Employees Welfare Association of Electronic Media

Affiliated to Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh

Affiliated To Union Network International, Geneva

WWW.arteeindia@gmail.com

Ref.No.ARTEE/P/02/2020-21/76

Date:-22/07/21

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur,

Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting,

Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports

5 th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New

Delhi - 110001

Respected Sir,

ARTEE, an affiliate of **BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH (BMS)**, the largest employee association in AIR & Doordarshan congratulate you as the Honourable Minister for I& B and sincerely hope that under your able administration the Public Broadcaster would attain new heights. As a responsible & sensitive Association ARTEE always encouraged our members to work hard following "Standard Covid Appropriate Behavior" throughout this ongoing pandemic period. We have unflinchingly responded to the government's call for continuous and uninterrupted service during the pandemic, unmindful of any personal risk. We have been working round the clock throughout the width and breadth of the nation, disseminating authentic information through several languages so that the efforts of the government under our Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, reach the entire population.

The Central Government employees of AIR & Doordarshan are governed by DoPT's Recognition of Service Association (RSA) Rules, 1993. Under these Rules, recognition was granted to some associations in the department (including ARTEE) in 2013. However, after four years, a process for re-verification of members was initiated but astonishingly; the recognition granted in 2013 was withdrawn.

This has created an acrimonious situation where the employees do not have a mechanism for expressing their grievances. Major policy decisions profoundly affecting the public broadcaster like closure of installations created by the Govt. of India Without trying to rejuvenate them, arbitrary removal of difficult/ tenure station status of installations where administration is

finding it difficult to do the broadcasting operations due to the inaccessible terrain, lack of communication and amenities etc. are taken without consulting the stakeholders.

Last year, a private consulting company made a secret man-power audit, keeping staff members in total darkness. There are rumors that it recommended staff reduction. Also, there are media reports about a VRS scheme for AIR / DD staff. The silence and the secretive nature of Prasar Bharati is creating suspicion about its real intentions.

We suspect that the failure of Prasar Bharati management on all fronts is being shifted to employees.

The government, being a model employer, should give a platform for its employees to express their grievances. Right now the consultative mechanism is totally bypassed by the officials.

We wish to state that, as employees of this public broadcaster, we have a stake in its well-being. We can prosper only if our organization prospers. We, as a staff welfare association, are eager to discuss thread-bare all aspects of its present state and ways to improve it. In fact, in many earlier communications to the authorities, we submitted a number of suggestions and ideas to improve the performance of AIR/ Doordarshan and generate revenue. Instead of viewing the Employee Associations as stumbling blocks, a wise and sagacious human-resource manager would see them as a source of ideas, experience and wisdom and attempt to use these qualities for betterment of the organization.

The issue of grant of recognition to Association of CG Employees was placed in the Agenda items provided by the Dy Secretary (JCA & RES II) DOPT, Govt of India for the discussions to be held on 26th June 2021 bearing letter no. 3/4/2021-JCA dated 16.06.2021 and item no-NC/48/14/21 to restore function of departmental and office councils in terms of JCM scheme (Copy enclosed herewith). Minutes of 48th meeting of National Council(JCM) held on 26.06.2021 is also attached herewith for your kind perusal.

AIR & DD have been very effective in creating awareness of COVID and keeping the morale of the people up during the lockdown. But, our department has scrupulously ignored and lynched many issues related to Subordinate Engineering Cadre in the name of the pandemic. This is creating huge disappointment & unrest among the staff members. Therefore, considering the gravity of the apathy meted out to the staff and the agony of the employees, **we earnestly request you to confer your precious time to discuss with the Association for the redressal of the following important points:**

1. Issue of "Recognition of Associations" under RSA. To start the deduction of Subscription of Membership for Associations.

2. Urgent intervention to stop the illegitimate and unjust Recoveries/Refixations of retiring employees of Engineering Subordinate Cadre by Pay & Account Offices arbitrarily & inconsistently. An order issued by Prasar Bharati dated 14.07.2020 is not implemented uniformly in all Pay & Accounts Offices across the country.

Uniform implementation of Hon'ble court orders of "STATUS QUO" on recovery issue of Engineering Subordinate Cadre.

[Ref: Stay order of Case No.-C.P./371/2018 filed by ARTEE]

3. Issue of non-release of the terminal benefits to all retired/retiring Subordinate Engineering Employees [Ref: Two cases OA 1118/2015 by Shyamli Biswas and OA2479/2015 by this Association ARTEE are allowed by learned Principal Bench of CAT Delhi with clear directions to the Respondents, not to treat 25/2/99 scales as an Upgradation while granting MACP. The case OA1118/2015 of Shyamli Biswas is challenged by the department in Hon'ble High Court Delhi through WPC 2034/2017. The Case OA 2479/2015 is also allowed in terms of OA 1118/2015 and clubbed with WPC 2034/2017 by Shaymli Biswas Case and it is mentioned in the verdict that the outcome of WPC2034/2017 will be applicable on the applicants of OA2479/2015.]

Afterwards Honorable Delhi High Court orders in WP (C) No.11639/2017 Smt. Syamali Biswas Vs. D.G., All India Radio & Others which was based on the Honorable Apex Court judgment in Rafiq Masih case. The High Court has held that no recovery can be made from the retired employee and further directed the

Department to release the due amount with 9% interest As per this order, DG AIR returned the entire amount recovered from Ms Syamali Biswas with 9% interest.

Hence the recovery from retired or retiring employees is against the directions of the Honorable Apex Court in State of Punjab & Others Vs Rafiq Masih (White washer) in Appeal No. 11527 of 2014.

4. Anomalies of NEW TRANSFER POLICY of PRASAR BHARATI dated 26.03.2021 in respect of standard guidelines issued by DOPT & MHA on the same issue.

5. Issue of implementing proposal by this association to remove acute stagnation in the cadre of Helper by diverting posts in the Direct Recruitment Quota of Technician to Departmental Promotion Quota through Department Competitive Examination from Helper Cadre.

[Ref:ARTEE letter No-ARTEE/CE/001/01/2020 dated 03.01.2020]

6.Delay in the merger of TECH&SR.TECH & EA-SEA Merger issues.

7.Acute delay in the case of EA to SEA promotion of all other zones except North Zone, where the Promotion list was released in September 2019.

8.Extension of benefits of ACP to all the helpers uniformly which is now extended to a few of the Helpers in DDK Delhi.

9. Issue of the Replacement Scale of Engineering Assistant has also been pending in the Ministry for a long time. Solution of this issue may minimize the maximum number of Court cases of our department.

10. Ex-gratia payment and Compassionate Appointment for Covid-19 victims in AIR & Doordarshan ,who lost their earning member's life in the line of duty during the pandemic.

11. Any other important issue with the permission of the chair.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Sincerely yours

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2 attachments

 **3. Minutes of the 48th NC JCM Meeting.pdf**
8649K

 **Agenda Items of 48 NC meeting.pdf**
12339K