



ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

No: UA/2021/

24.07.2021

To

Shri. Devusinh Chauhanji,
Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications,
Govt of India.

Memorandum

Respected Sir,

All Unions And Associations in BSNL (AUAB) wholeheartedly welcome your goodself and assure our fullest cooperation in all your efforts for the Revival of BSNL. As the representatives of BSNL employees, we take this opportunity to bring some crucial issues to your kind notice, which will accelerate the Revival of BSNL.

Govt has taken some crucial decision in the Union Cabinet meeting dated 23.10.2019 for the Revival of BSNL by treating it as a strategic sector due to various reasons. Out of five decisions, only two are implemented so far: 1) VRS for the employees and 2) Sovereign Guarantee Bond for Rs 8500/- Crores. The two major decisions, which is having the real potential to revive BSNL, 1) Launching of 4G services and 2) Land monetization to clear the debts not implemented so far. In fact, the abnormal delay in implementation of these two major decisions of the Union Cabinet is the real roadblocks for BSNL Revival.

The major issues hampering the Revival of BSNL are listed below for your kind intervention:

(1) Immediate launching of 4G service by way of upgradation of the BTSs and also steps for moving towards the launching of 5G service:

We express our serious concern that, the objective of achieving the financial revival of BSNL remains a distant dream, even after one year and eight months of the announcement of BSNL's Revival Package. BSNL has not launched its 4G service so far, which is severely hampering the very existence of the Company. As a first step, BSNL has to upgrade its 49,300 4G and 4G compatible BTSs procured and installed way back in 2018 by spending thousands of Crores. Main hindrance is that about 60% of the equipments are from ZTE, a Chinese vendor. With the

All other operators are providing 4G services through global vendors including Chinese vendors. By denying permission for BSNL alone, **BSNL is missing the level playing field.** Since the equipments are already procured and put in use 3 years back and BSNL spend thousands of Crores for that, BSNL should not be discriminated by denying permission. **Already BSNL providing 4G services in a limited way with these equipments. Like others, BSNL should be allowed to provide the 4G services by upgradation of the remaining BTSs with less cost.**

It may be noted that without 4G services, BSNL cannot survive in the Telecom market and we cannot dream about Revival of BSNL. The new tendering process will take atleast two to three years to take off and by that time, BSNL will be out of mobile market, if 4G launching is further delayed. In addition to that upgradation cost is just 1500 Cr whereas new tender cost will be about 9000 Cr.

Similarly many equipments in the BSNL network are supplied by Foreign vendors including Chinese vendors. Permission is to be given by Govt for its repair, maintenance, replacement, procurement of components etc for proper maintenance of the network.

(2) Immediate settlement of dues to BSNL, amounting Rs.39,000 Crore, by the DoT:

BSNL is facing huge financial crisis, seriously affecting the quality of service as well as its expansion plans. At the same time, it is disturbing to note that, a huge amount remains

pending to be paid by the DoT, on account of various dues, to the BSNL. These "claims receivable" include Leave encashment related to the DoT period (Rs 11,998 Cr), excess payment made by BSNL towards Pension Contribution (Rs 1,996 Cr), Viability Gap Funding for rural telephones (Rs 13,789 Cr), Surrender of CDMA spectrum (Rs 2,472 Cr), NOFN project (Rs 1,051 Cr) etc. **Thus, the total "claims receivable" to be paid to BSNL comes to a whopping Rs,39,000 Cr. Payment of this amount by the Govt will solve the financial crisis in BSNL to great extent and accelerate the growth.**

(3) Immediate steps to off-set BSNL's debt, through the monetisation of lands:

BSNL is having a debt of Rs.30,000 Crore. The Company is in the verge of getting into a debt-trap, which threatens its very future itself. As per Union Cabinet decision dated 23.10.2019, Rs 20,000 Cr loan of BSNL is to be cleared by monetization of land. Hence, speedy monetisation of BSNL's surplus land parcels is needed to be done on a war footing.

(4) Disbursement of salary on the last date of every month:

80,000 employees have already been retired under the VRS-2019, as a result of which the Company's salary bill has been slashed down by 50%. However, the employees are not being paid salary on the due date. This sorry state of affairs is continuing for the past one and half years. It is a serious concern for BSNL employees. Eventhough BSNL is getting an average revenue of Rs 1400 Cr per month, the salary which is about 375 Crores is not paid in time. This is highly objectionable and demoralizing the employees.

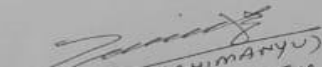
(5) No monetisation of BSNL's towers and Optical Fibre as is being planned by the Finance Ministry / Government of India.

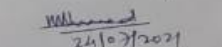
The vast Optical Fibre network and Towers are the biggest assets of BSNL. BSNL services are mainly depends on its Optical Fibre and towers. The decision of the Government of India to raise Rs.40,000 Crore by way of monetisation of the towers and Optical Fibre of the BSNL and MTNL clearly shows that, the Government is on the way to privatise BSNL.

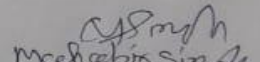
(6) BSNL service related issues like: i) Complete review of the cluster based outsourcing system which resulted in massive surrendering of the landline and broadband connections, ii) Improving the Transmission network, iii) Speedy measures to improve the quality of BSNL's FTTH service and iv) Prompt maintenance of BTSs, proper up-keep of power plants, as well as availability of batteries etc are to be addressed without further delay.


We, the employees of BSNL solicit your kind personal intervention in resolving the above issues at the earliest. We assure your goodself once again our fullest support in this regard.

Yours Sincerely,


(P. ASHIMANYU)
AS, BSNLEO


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AS, AIGETO


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