

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

Recognised Union in BSNL

(Registered Under Indian Trade Union Act 1926. Regn.No.4896)

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BSNLEU/422 (WAGE) (i)

24.10.2018

To

Ms. Aruna Sundararajan,
Secretary, Telecom,
Sanchar Bhawan,
New Delhi – 110 001

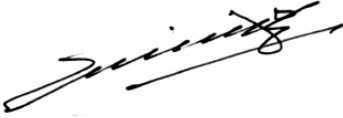
Madam,

Sub: - **Forwarding of the resolution on non-implementation of the assurances given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications – req.**

We wish to bring the following resolution to your kind notice, on non-implementation of the assurances given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, which is passed in the Central Executive Committee meeting of BSNL Employees Union, held at Ghaziabad, on 22nd & 23rd October, 2018.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



[P.Abhimanyu]
General Secretary

Encl: As above.

Copy to: (1) Shri Saket Kumar, Private Secretary to MoS(C), DoT, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
(2) Shri N. Sivasailam, Special Secretary, DoT, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
(3) Shri Anupam Shrivastava, CMD BSNL, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001
(4) Shri R.K. Khandelwal, Jt. Secretary (Admn.), DoT, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001
(5) Ms. Sujata T. Ray, Director (HR & Finance), BSNL, Janpath New Delhi.
(6) Shri A.M. Gupta, GM(SR), BSNL CO.
(7) Shri Pawan Gupta, Director (PSU), DoT, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001

**Resolution on non-implementation of the assurances given by the Hon'ble MoS(C),
passed in the Central Executive Committee meeting of BSNL Employees Union, held at
Ghaziabad on 22nd & 23rd October, 2018.**

This meeting of the Central Executive Committee of BSNLEU expresses its deep concern and disappointment, on the non-implementation of the assurances given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, in the meeting held with the AUAB on 24.02.2018. Already 8 months have passed since the assurances were given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, on the following four major issues.

In the meeting held with the AUAB on 24.02.2018, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications was pleased to assure that a Cabinet Note would be taken for the consideration of the Union Cabinet, for relaxing the "Affordability Clause" of the 3rd PRC, in respect of the wage revision of the BSNL employees.

As regards, the allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications was pleased to assure that, 4G spectrum would be allotted to BSNL soon, on the terms and conditions as proposed by the BSNL Management. It is significant to mention that, a few days later, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications was pleased to make a statement in this regard on the floor of the Parliament also. On the issue of payment of pension contribution by BSNL, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications was pleased to give an unambiguous direction to the Secretary, Telecom, that only Government of India Rule should be made applicable to BSNL on this issue. The Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications was also pleased to assure that pension revision would be done to the absorbed BSNL retirees.

It is very disturbing to note that even though eight months have already elapsed since the assurances were given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, the DoT has not even prepared the Cabinet Note, for getting exemption from the Affordability Clause. Even after it is prepared by the DoT, the Cabinet Note has to be sent for inter ministerial consultation, which will consume a few more months.

The delay caused by the DoT in preparing the Cabinet Note tantamounts to denial of wage revision to BSNL employees. Considering the fact that the announcement for elections to the Parliament is likely to be made in February / March, 2019, the chances of getting the Cabinet approval for the relaxation to the Affordability Clause in respect of BSNL employees, is becoming dimmer day by day.

Denial of wage revision or HRA revision to the employees, citing BSNL's financial position, is not only unjustified but also misleading. It should be kept in mind that the entire telecom market is disrupted due to the predatory pricings of Reliance Jio. It should not be forgotten that major private operators viz., Airtel and Vodafone Idea have gone into loss. Further, these private operators are having huge debts, whereas BSNL's debt is comparatively insignificant. We also wish to cite that BSNL recorded faster growth in the mobile segment, compared to Airtel, Vodafone and Idea in 2017. Further, as per TRAI report, BSNL is the only Company apart from Reliance Jio, which has recorded growth in AGR in the year 2017. BSNL's AGR has increased by 6.8% in June quarter, as per TRAI report.

Hence, we wish to point out that BSNL is not a sinking ship. Market analysts have confirmed that call and data tariffs will start rising from April 2019 onwards. Hence, BSNL's financial crisis is not going to linger on for long. Once, the disruption of market created by Reliance Jio ends, BSNL's financial position will also start improving.

The delay being caused by the DoT in the allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL, is seriously affecting the financial health of BSNL. The delay being caused by the DoT only reflects its unwillingness to allot 4G spectrum to BSNL. As regards, payment of pension contribution by BSNL, the delay in taking a decision by the DoT, even after the clear-cut direction was given by

the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, is totally untenable. As regards the pension revision of the absorbed BSNL retirees, the DoT has always maintained that it is linked with the wage revision of BSNL employees, which is totally unacceptable. At par with the pension revision given to the other pensioners covered under CCS Pension Rules 1972, the absorbed BSNL pensioners should also be given pension revision immediately, and without waiting for the wage revision of the serving employees to get completed.

It is not only unfortunate that the assurances given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications are not implemented by the DoT, it is highly unfortunate that the Secretary, DoT, has not even met the representatives of the AUAB, despite several requests made by the latter. It is significant to mention here that, in the meeting held with the AUAB on 24.02.2018, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications was kind enough to assure that, the representatives of the AUAB can have periodical meetings with the Secretary, DoT, to monitor the progress in the implementation of the assurances.

Under these circumstances, the AUAB has already conducted demonstrations on 11th July, 2018 and a three day relay hunger strike on 24th, 25th and 26th July, 2018, to attract the attention of the DoT, to the acute delay in the implementation of the assurances given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications. Once again the representatives of the AUAB met the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications inside the Parliament on 1st August, 2018, and pleaded for his intervention for the implementation of his assurances.

Despite all the efforts taken by the AUAB, for the peaceful settlement of the crucial issues, on which assurances were given by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, virtually no improvement has come on any issue, due to the roadblocks being created by the DoT.

Under these circumstances, the AUAB is left with no other go, but to intensify it's agitational programme. In it's meeting held on 08.08.2018, the AUAB has called on the following agitational programme. Notice is already served on the Secretary, DoT and the CMD BSNL, wherein it is mentioned that the employees would be forced to go on strike action, if the assurances are not implemented by 30th November, 2018.

29.10.2018 - Press meets at district and circle levels.

30.10.2018 - Dharnas at Corporate Office, circle and district levels.

14.11.2018 - Rallies at Corporate Office, circle and district levels.

This CEC meeting of BSNLEU calls upon the circle and district unions to effectively organise the above mentioned programme of action in a massive and in the most effective manner.

Since the AUAB has already decided to organise strike action after 30.11.2018, the circle and district unions are requested to utilise the above programme of action as a preparation for a serious strike action, including an indefinite strike.
