

JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE OF ASSOCIATIONS / UNIONS OF BSNL EXECUTIVES & NON-EXECUTIVES

D-7, Telegraph Place, Gole Market, New Delhi – 110 001.

To

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
New Delhi.

Respected Sir,

Sub :- **Memorandum from the Joint Action Committee of BSNL Unions/Associations of Non-Executives / Executives on the issue of financial viability of BSNL and other demands**

On behalf of the Joint Action Committee of Unions/Associations of Non-Executives/ Executives in BSNL representing the entire 3 lakh employees in BSNL, this memorandum is submitted for your benign consideration.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) expresses its serious concern regarding the deteriorating financial condition of BSNL which finally resulted in posting a loss of Rs 1822 crores in 2009-10. While even the Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed concern in this regard, no appropriate policy decisions were taken/ implemented to improve the financial condition of BSNL and to make it a vibrant telecom PSU. The Sam Pitroda Committee appointed by PMO's office has made certain recommendations which are aimed at privatizing BSNL instead of making it viable. Its recommendation for 30% disinvestment and removal of 1 lakh employees through the mechanism of VRS/Transfer are nothing but a prelude to privatization. The JAC strongly opposed such recommendations and submitted a charter of demands aimed at achieving financial viability and for a better service to the people. The JAC organised indefinite strike on these demands with effect from 20- 4 – 2010. On the day itself, the Hon'ble Minister for Communications & IT met the JAC representatives and gave certain assurances. Based on these, the strike was deferred. However, the assurances remain unimplemented. Hence the JAC decided to hold a March to Parliament on 15-11-2010 and observe 3 days strike from 1-12-2010 to 3-12-2010. Accordingly the March to Parliament is being held today and on this occasion, we are submitting this memorandum for your favourable consideration and decision..

Demands:

- 1. Refund of Rs.18,500 crores to BSNL, paid to government towards 3G and BWA spectrum charges:** The fully government owned PSU, BSNL should have been allotted 3G and BWA Spectrums without any charge as was done at the time of granting mobile licence as per NTP 1999. But as per government direction, Rs.18, 500 crores are paid by BSNL towards spectrum charges. Almost all the funds with BSNL are liquidated by this payment. Our demand is that this amount of Rs.18,500 crore is to be refunded to BSNL to meet the developmental and expansion plans.

2. 78.2% IDA merger for wage revision w.e.f. 01.01.2007

As per government and DPE instructions, wage revision with 78.2% IDA merger is to be granted to PSU employees w.e.f. 01.01.2007. But only 68.8% IDA merger has been granted to BSNL executives and Non-Executives. We demand that wage revision with 78.2% IDA merger is to be implemented without any delay.

3. ITS Absorption

For more than ten years, ITS officers numbering about 1400 are continuing on deputation to BSNL instead of getting absorbed, though 3 lakh executives and non-executives have already been absorbed w.e.f. 01.10.2000. Indefinite deputation of top level management officers has resulted in lack of motivation and serious adverse effect on the development and expansion of services. The assurance of Minister of Communications & IT should be honoured by settling the absorption issue immediately.

4. No Disinvestment / IPO of BSNL

The entire workforce is completely against Disinvestment / IPO since it is neither necessary nor beneficial to BSNL. Both in 2006 and 2008, government has given assurance to the workers that there will be no disinvestment. The fact that Disinvestment is the first step towards privatization is well known to all. We demand that there should be no disinvestment / IPO of BSNL.

5. No VRS

The proposal of Sam Pitroda Committee to retrench one lakh workforce through VRS/ transfer is not acceptable to us. The proposal is in violation of the assurance given to us in 2006 by Government. We demand that the proposal of VRS/ Transfer be dropped forthwith.

6. Procurement of adequate mobile equipments

One of the main reasons for the down fall of market share of BSNL and revenue loss is the capacity crunch due to cancellation of 45.5 million tender in 2007 and 95 million lines in 2010. In order to restore the BSNL position both in market share and revenue, adequate procurement is required. Even the 30 million mobile equipment assured after 20th April 2010 strike has not been provided. We demand that adequate mobile equipments should be procured immediately.

7. No unbundling of last mile copper

The recommendations of Sam Pitroda Committee to unbundle the last mile copper (cables) as also towers are not acceptable to us. These valuable assets of the company should not be unbundled or shared.

8. Implement government commitments on financial viability of BSNL

The assurances given by the government at the time of corporatisation like Licence Fee Reimbursement, ADC, and grant from USO Fund etc. to ensure financial viability of BSNL to enable it to fulfill the social commitments of government on universal service etc. have either been discontinued or reduced drastically. We demand that these commitments of the govt. should be honoured.

9. Effective and expeditious implementation of programmes and projects

It is felt that the projects and programmes are not being implemented in time resulting in delay and non-achievement of targets. Well advertised 100 days programme is only one of the examples. Projects like ERP, NGN, etc. are delayed in implementation. A lot of problems have arisen in implementation of CDR, resulting in surrender of telephones etc. We demand expeditious, fool proof implementation and smooth change over to CDR.

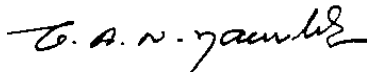
10. All telecom services to Government Departments, PSU etc. should be from BSNL/MTNL

BSNL is a fully government owned company. The government has directed all government, PSU officers to travel only by Air India. In the same way, instructions should be issued to government departments and PSUs to use only BSNL / MTNL Services.

11. Revision of IDA pension for pre-2007 retirees

The assurance of the Hon'ble Minister of Communications with regard to government approval for IDA pension revision of pre-2007 retirees should be ensured and orders issued early.

Yours Faithfully,



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New Delhi
15-11-2010