

## **Declaration by National convention of BSNL workers on 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2010.**

National Convention under the banner of JAC comprising of more than three lakh executives and non executives absorbed in BSNL consequent upon Corporatization of DOT in the year 2000, while unequivocally and vociferously condemning government for betraying the concrete commitments it made to promote uninterrupted growth of BSNL and safeguard the legitimate interests of workers and also for well planned and systematic policies to destabilize BSNL to eventually privatize it, unanimously resolves to warn the government not only to uphold clear and firm commitments it made at the time of Corporatization to sustain the growth of BSNL in terms of providing continued financial support to it through carefully worked out regime of ADC, from USO (Fund), whose largest share comes from BSNL ~~license fees~~, exemption of license fees on fixed lines and payment of spectrum charges etc., but also take strong fresh policy initiatives urgently to revive BSNL and save it from collapsing.

This convention in an affirmative and singular voice seeks serious and immediate intervention of the government to address following critical issues.

A) To give BSNL Management complete freedom to decide and finalize its commercial and business policies and procurement of equipment without any political/bureaucratic interference. Also mandate all Central Government departments/PSUs, including banks, insurance companies etc, to take services from BSNL in the larger interests of National security.

B) Adequately compensate BSNL through ADC regime to offset incredibly huge losses it has incurred to meet socio-economic obligations of the government in accomplishing deployment of widespread country wide telecom infrastructure and massive user penetration in remotest parts of the country at highly subsidized prices. This regime has been withdrawn arbitrarily to provide strategic business leverage to private operators whose contribution in rural telecom expansion has been virtually nil in the so called name of fallacious level playing field.

C) To fully exempt BSNL from payment of license fees committed at the time of corporatization.

D) To fully refund spectrum charges of Rs 18,500 crores that BSNL has been arbitrarily forced to pay on 3G and BWA airwaves in total contravention of the provisions envisaged in NTP-1999. Blatant discrimination met out by insensitive and indifferent bureaucracy in DOT to BSNL by depriving it of legitimate opportunity to bid for choice Circles of commercial potential deserves strongest condemnation.

E) To comprehensively and immediately resolve the lingering and crucial issue of absorption of ITS which has and continues to adversely impact the growth of BSNL and also end serious discrimination and disparity vis-à-vis unabsorbed ITS with regard to DA neutralization by implementing the orders of DPE to pay IDA @ 78.2% w.e.f 1.1.2007.

F) To strictly adhere to the clear commitment of payment and revision of pension by the government at the time of corporatization by suitably amending and incorporating appropriate provisions in rule 37 A in conformity with the provisions contained in rules regulating payment and increase of pension from the consolidated fund. Loopholes in the existing provisions of rule 37 A should be plugged in at the earliest to bring pension and pension revision rules in BSNL fully at par with Central government rules.

G) To abandon the retrograde recommendations of Pitroda Panel regarding disinvestment and VRS.

This convention unanimously resolves to resort to Countrywide sit out strike for three days from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept., 2010 to register strongest protest of workers and fully empowers National JAC to suitably decide to go in for indefinite direct action in case the government fails to resolve the issues in totality within reasonable time frame.