

UNITED FORUM OF EXECUTIVES' OF MTNL & BSNL

NEW DELHI

No: UF/MTNL & BSNL/Memorandum/2008-2009

Dated 18.11.2008

To

Thiru A.Raja

Hon'ble MoC&IT

Govt. of India

New Delhi 110001

Memorandum against dual policy of the Government on the issue of absorption and demand of immediate repatriation of BSNL & MTNL executives to DoT.

Respected Sir,

We have the honor in communicating with you, this time on an issue that is of vital importance to the survival of BSNL, the 100% Government Telecom Company in the land, and of MTNL. Needless to say, that as the head of these organisations, the existence and survival of these Companies must be of much more concern to you than anyone else in the country. That is why we consider that this will not be an intrusion into your hectic schedules, but rather something that is of prime importance to your honour. And we have absolutely no doubt that your good self will definitely take some time out of your most precious moments to think over and decide what is in the best interests of the telecommunication needs of the country, more so the semi-urban and rural public who heavily depend on BSNL and MTNL for their micro and macro communication facilities, which in turn tell upon their well-being and prosperity.

For the last more than eight years, the BSNL and MTNL has been serving the vast populace of the country, spread over the nook and corner, particularly the rural areas in a most exemplary manner. It must admittedly be said that these companies have been performing reasonably well even on the financial front. But its recent records do not at all present the best of health, both on the market and the financial fronts. Naturally it had to contend with very stiff competition from the private operators who have enormous flexibility in decision making and are headed by professionals. It is admirable enough that against such unbridled competition these mammoth public sector giants have survived eight glorious years. But, like your good self, we feel that eight years is not only too short a period but also these Companies should survive and exist for eternity to dish out the best telecom service to the people of this great country. This means that something more than what is happening at present should be thought out and executed. That is precisely why we steal a few moments of your precious time.

BSNL/MTNL with more than 3.5 lakh employees have been ruled and directed by the ITS officers throughout the past in all the 26 Circles, including Delhi and Mumbai. The fact is that they have been ruling these Companies using the 3.5 lakhs other employees according to their set of discretions and sometimes indiscretions. They could afford indiscretions because they are all on deputation from the Government with no stake in the future or existence or survival of these Companies. Apart from drawing their salary from these Companies they do not require to have any consideration about the prospects of the Company because of the only but most vital fact that their salary, their pension and their jobs are not at stake but protected in the Government and by the Government. No one need question their commitment but take note of the mere fact that anybody else put in their position would not, need not and does not have the motivation to do any better than the present set of people. All power and no responsibility, which the men in charge of the affairs of these Companies at present enjoy, is something that even the wanton emperors and kings of old did not and could not enjoy. We learn from history what these kings and emperors did; they looted and plundered the treasures of the people and the nation and drank their lives to the full as much as they could and in as many ways as they could. Therefore it is not the persons, but the state in which they are put that matters and matters most. As such anyone who has any concern about the prospects of these Companies has the reason to cry out foul and cry out loud. May be we have not cried enough, may be we have not cried loud, that is why our voices still remain unheard and remain dimmed in the din of the day. Therefore we want our voices to be heard, this time as never before, because we love this country and more than that these Companies and even more than that the bread that these Companies buy for us. We are sure that we need not elaborate the reason for our concern any further.

We all know that it all started with the slogan of absorption of the non-executives first, then the Executives and last the top men, in that order. Now we feel that this was nothing but a ploy to trap the others and remain safe and secure as they consider themselves and really are, now. Yes, the non-executives and the executives obeyed the orders of the Government even though they were hardly willing about it. But they thought that orders are to be obeyed. But now new lessons from hardly 1800 top men teach us new lessons that the orders of the Government are to be utterly disobeyed and disregarded. If your good self also feels the same, which we definitely hope is not the case, then, we have no objection and nothing to say. Eight and more years are more than long enough to make anybody decide and obey the orders. And if the Hon, Minister, the DOT and the BSNL/MTNL Managements still justify disregarding and disobeying of the orders of the govt., on one flimsy pretext or the other, which is actually the case, then sadly enough we would like to remind them that fifty thousand executives of BSNL and MTNL cannot be taken for granted and allow this disastrous state of affairs to continue by remaining as silent spectators.

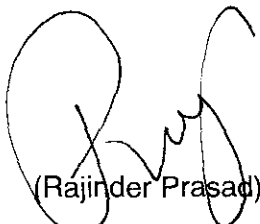
Your good self must have been given the information that the Executives of BSNL & MTNL are on an agitational path to save the state owned strategic telecom Companies from getting collapsed because of complete lack of interest and concern on the part of those who are to act, motivate people to act and decide. The current agitational programmes that absorbed executives of BSNL and MTNL are virtually compelled to decide and observe primarily because of total lack of firmness, decisiveness, determination and abject failure on the part of the concerned ministry and the managements of BSNL and MTNL to enforce the decision of the govt is going to certainly take its logical end. We would like our sounds to be heard at least this time. **This time our plea is that if the Government feels it difficult to make 1800 people obey, then kindly repatriate all of us back into the DOT, because we would all like to be safe and secure.** We hope that at least at this high hour, reason prevails with all men concerned in the Government and no further dilly-dallying in the matter is permitted to continue.

If illusions are being planted into somebody's minds that these Companies will not survive in the absence of these 1600 men, then our answer to them is that these Companies will survive and flourish much better in their absence than their presence. We were able to demonstrate this fact very emphatically and convincingly to the authorities in the year 2005 when telecom services were maintained and operated in an excellent and uninterrupted manner, consequent upon repatriation of these 1600 officers to DOT for about a month. A myth has been created particularly by the BSNL management that services in BSNL shall collapse in the event of repatriation of these 1600 officers, and this myth got sufficiently exposed in the year 2005. Even the present top brass of the DOT are very much aware of this naked truth. But, unfortunately, reluctance and indecision on part of the concerned ministry continues, for unknown reasons, and this is enormously contributing towards downslide of both the state owned telecom companies.

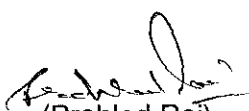
Therefore it is once again our earnest plea to your good self to ensure that this opportunity to place responsible men in charge of the affairs of the PSUs is not squandered, in which case our demand is that we may be repatriated to our parent DOT. This decision has been taken after extensive deliberations over the dual policy of the Government on the issue of absorption which has shaken the very foundation of viability of BSNL & MTNL. We hope that your good self will understand the gravity of the moment and prevent further precipitation of the issue by another prolonged agitation and struggle which we, if forced, will have no other option but to continue and intensify further. We also take this opportunity in informing your good self that our considered and well thought about decision is that under no circumstances we will report to deputationists in BSNL/MTNL after 22nd December 2008 (Last date of deemed deputation).

With kind regards

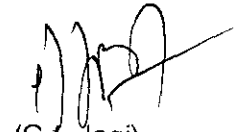
Sincerely yours,




(Rajinder Prasad)
GS,MTNL/SEA



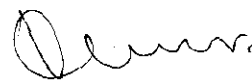
(Prahlad Rai)
GS,AIBSNLEA



(G.L.Jogi)
GS,SNEA(I)



(A.K.Kaushik)
GS,TEAM



(V.K.Tomar)
GS,MEA

Copy to:-

- 1) Sh. Siddhartha Behura, Chairman Telecom Commission and Secretary (Telecom) Govt of India New Delhi 110001.
- 2) Sh. Kuldeep Goyal, CMD BSNL New Delhi 110001.
- 3) Sh. R.S.P. Sinha CMD MTNL New Delhi 110001.