

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL CONVENTION OF BSNL EMPLOYEES HELD AT NEW DELHI ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2007.

This National Convention of BSNL non-executives and executives held at New Delhi on 7th September 2007 warmly congratulates the BSNL employees for their complete participation in the 11th July 2007 strike called by the Joint Forum of BSNL Unions / Associations on the issue of GSM Tenders and for saving BSNL. There was no economical demand of the workers, yet the entire workforce rose as one man to defend BSNL from the inaction and casual approach of the management and Government, which has brought down the Public Sector Company to 4th position and around 20% market share in mobile sector.

GSM LINES – 2G & 3G

The assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT as also BSNL management has been met with by 50% only. While more than 40 million new GSM connections are given per month by all operators, the share of BSNL is negligible and has to be improved without delay. Immediate steps are required in the matter.

NAVARATNA STATUS

BSNL is fully justified for getting Navaratna status. However, the government is denying the same on flimsy grounds. Despite the assurance of Secretary, DoT at the time of issue of notice for one-day strike on 05.01.2006, the file is pending with the Government. The Navaratna status should be granted to BSNL without any further delay, if need be by relaxing the conditions.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Assurance was given by the Government at the time of corporatisation that the newly formed BSNL will be provided financial assistance through Access Deficit Charge (ADC) and Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for providing loss making connections in rural and remote areas as part of the Government policy. ADC has been reduced every year and it is completely being stopped from April 2008. We demand that ADC should continue to be disbursed to BSNL in its present rates. USOF payment to BSNL is reduced and in fact BSNL pays more to USOF than it receives. At present, the private companies are more benefited through USOF. In addition, the reimbursement of Licence Fee to BSNL is also stopped. The increase of FDI from 49% to 74% in Telecom Sector also gone against the interests of the PSUs. While spectrum is allotted free to the incumbent operator in many countries, no such benefit is granted to BSNL, which is the incumbent Telecom operator in India. This National Convention strongly demands the Government and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) that they should not discriminate the Public Sector Telecom Company, BSNL, and should continue the benefits assured earlier. Government should reimburse for full utilization of USO Funds.

PENSION

The National Convention expresses its deep concern and protest against the orders issued by DoT on 15.06.2006, stipulating that if the amount of pension is more than 60% of the amount received from BSNL by way of Dividend, Licence Fee, Corporate Tax, Excise Duty, Service Tax etc. then the same will have to be paid by BSNL, is nothing short of breaking the solemn agreement and violation of Government assurance given earlier. The said order should be withdrawn immediately. Pension should continue as per Rule 37A of the Pension Rules and pension contribution to DoT as per DoT ND Letter No. 7-1/2000/TAI/117 dated 31.07.2002.

ABSORPTION OF ITS OFFICERS

Even after 7 years of formation of BSNL and absorption in BSNL of all Group 'B', 'C' and 'D' staff of more than 3 lakh, the majority of ITS Officers about three thousand who are the top management personnel are yet to get absorbed in BSNL. Not only this is against existing rules, but non-absorption of these officers are creating hurdles in development and expansion as also settlement of staff grievances, besides demoralizing the other sections of executives and non-executives, who are already absorbed in BSNL. The Government and management should take immediate steps to get these officers absorbed in BSNL.

VRS / CRS

The recent proposal of the BSNL Management to introduce VRS with the intention of retrenching 20,000 staff is neither justified nor beneficial to the company. It is part of the globalization liberalization policy of the Government and against of the workers and the interests of the company. This National Convention strongly opposes the move and demands the management to drop the proposal forth with.

WAGE REVISION

BSNL employees are eligible for wage revision from 01.01.2007. So far no negotiation has started. This National Convention demands that the wage revision of both executives and non-executives should be settled at the earliest.

MERGER OF 50% DA WITH PAY

The Central government has already granted merger of 50% of DA with pay to its employees. This Convention demands that 50% of DA be merged with pay w.e.f. 01.01.2004 for BSNL employees also as demanded by all PSUs.

This National Convention held on 7th September 2007 after thorough discussion and in order to achieve the above demands, which are essential for the growth and development of BSNL to restore its prime position in Indian Telecom Sector, resolves to organize massive campaign amongst the employees and the public and organize agitational programmes as given below in case there is no settlement within a reasonable time frame:

- 1. Holding campaign in all SSA Headquarters during September 2007 to prepare the employees for struggle as well as to inform the public about our demands.**
- 2. Massive Dharna at Circle Level on 11 October 2007 for one day.**

Further programmes including indefinite strike will be decided after watching the progress during these two months.

This National Convention of BSNL Non-Executives and Executives held at New Delhi calls upon the entire BSNL workers to join the programme and make it completely successful. The Convention also urges the general public and Telecom consumers to support our struggle, which is in the interest of the PSU and the Nation.

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