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- Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare

DATE:18.05.2020

To,

Thiru.Ravi Shankar Prasad .Avl,
Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice Communications,
Electronics & Information Technology,
Govt of India,
Delhi.

Dear sir,

Vanakkam.

I am forwarding herewith a letter addressed to you by the "All Unions and Associations of BSNL" (AUAB) requesting the Government 's intervention to clear the roadblock involved in the 4G Tendering process for BSNL.

It is pertinent to mention as explained in the letter that BSNL is already lagging behind the Private Telecom Service Providers by 4 years, so far as the 4G Technology is concerned. Until now, BSNL is providing 2G and 3G Services only. Hence, it is losing huge revenue from 4G customers. After a lot of deliberations at different levels and acknowledging the Strategic importance of BSNL. In October last year, the Government of India, as a part of the revival package,has decided to allot 4G spectrum to BSNL. The PSU is getting a new lease of life through the approval of the Revival plan. With the view to roll out it's 4G services, BSNL has floated a Tender on 23.03.2020 for the supply, deployment, and maintenance of 4G equipments at 50,000 sites, at the cost of around Rs.9,300 crores. But the Media reports state that Telecom BSNL's Tender to procure the 4G equipments has hit roadblocks. The reports state that ,the Telecom Equipments and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC),an industry body has complained to the Department of Commerce and the Department of Telecommunications have directed the BSNL to rework its Tender. If the reports are true, it is definitely very unfortunate decision taken by these Ministries. This is nothing but defeating BSNL'S Revival Plan, being carried out by the Government of India. BSNL Tender should not be delayed as it is very important for the company and the employees.

The one point agenda of the TEPC appears to be that of stalling the procurement of 4G equipment by BSNL and thereby to delay BSNL's rolling out of Pan India 4G services. In that case, the other Private Operators are the direct beneficiaries. **Launching of 4G Services is the lifeline for BSNL and the first and foremost requirement for BSNL's Revival. BSNL will have to pay a heavy price for any more delay on the part of the authorities. It is the foremost duty of the Government of India to protect the BSNL so as to render better Service to the Nation.**