

ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

No: UA/2020/11

18.09.2020

To

**Com.Wasi Ahmad
General Secretary,
AIGETOA.**

Comrade,

Sub: - **Appealing for united actions to ensure the early launching of BSNL's 4G service, as well as the Company's survival – reg.**

We wish to bring to your kind notice that, the AUAB meeting held on 07.09.2020, has decided to give an appeal to such of those unions and associations, which are not part of the AUAB, to come forward for united actions, to ensure the early launching of BSNL's 4G service, as well as the Company's revival. Hence, we are sending this appeal to you for taking an appropriate decision, to come forward for united actions.

It is needless to state that only through united campaigns and struggles, BSNL is remaining as a 100% government company today. Only through the united and massive campaigns and struggles organised in the years 2017, 2018 & 2019, BSNL has been allotted with the 4G spectrum free of cost. The AUAB feels that, a conspiracy has been hatched to deny BSNL of the 4G technology, with the view to benefit private operators, especially Reliance Jio. The tender floated by BSNL to procure 4G equipments, has been cancelled on the plea that, it's conditions had precluded domestic manufacturers from participating in the tender.

However, even after three months of the cancellation of the 4G tender, neither the DoT, nor the Department of Commerce, has been able to identify and tell which domestic manufacturer has developed and perfected the 4G technology, and is capable of supplying 4G equipments to BSNL. Media reports say that, the DoT is likely to tell BSNL to "try" the equipments manufactured by some Indian manufacturer.

The private operators are procuring world class 4G equipments from international vendors and are in the verge of adopting 5G technology. However, BSNL is faced with road-blocks even in the launching of it's 4G service. Does these not tantamount to denial of 'level playing field' to BSNL?

Being the senior leaders of the BSNL trade union movement, we are able to say how the government service provider had become a victim of the pro-private policies of the government. The following are a few such instances:-

- 1) The private telecom companies were given mobile licences in 1995. However, the then government, headed by Shri Narasimha Rao, decided not to allot the mobile licence to the then government service provider, viz., the DoT. BSNL was given the chance to roll out it's mobile service only in the end of year 2002. The 7 years delay, in getting the mobile licences, has done great harm to the government service provider.
- 2) The government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee waived the licence fee arrears of private telecom companies, amounting to tens of thousands of crores of rupees, to bail out the private companies. The government also changed the Fixed Licence Fee regime and brought the Revenue Sharing regime to help the private telecom operators. This also provided an opportunity to the private operators to manipulate by understating their revenue collections and thereby cheating the government by paying a lesser amount as licence fee.

- 3) The Reliance Infocom availed licence for providing only fixed line service. However, by doing manipulations in the CDMA technology, the company provided full-fledged all India roaming service. The then Vajpayee government came to the rescue of Reliance Infocom and introduced the Unified Access Licensing system.
- 4) Under the UPA regime, BSNL was denied procurement of equipments, under one pretext or the other, from 2006 to 2012. This is the time when the mobile service grew exponentially in India. Private companies fully took benefit of this scenario, while BSNL was unable to expand it's networks and became a perennially loss making company.
- 5) Contrary to the norms fixed by the TRAI and the Competition Commission of India, Reliance Jio was allowed to adopt Predatory Pricing. The DoT, TRAI and the Government of India facilitated Jio to build a huge empire within a very short period. Shri J.S. Deepak, a senior IAS officer and the then Secretary, Telecom, was shunted out unceremoniously from the DoT, for questioning the predatory pricing of Reliance Jio. Now, after having been compelled to allot 4G spectrum, free of cost to BSNL, the government is creating hurdles in BSNL's 4G launching.
- 6) Even in April, 2020, as per TRAI figures, only BSNL has gained 2 lakh new customers, while Airtel and Vodafone Idea had lost 47 lakh customers each. BSNL has achieved this feat even without 4G technology. All these go to prove that, only BSNL is having the potential to take on Reliance Jio. Hence, is the conspiracy to deny BSNL of the 4G technology.

You will agree that the future of the employees will be doomed if the immediate revival of BSNL is not achieved. The company's revival is unimaginable without it's immediate launching of 4G service. Hence, to create compulsions on the government, the entire Executives and Non-Executives of BSNL have to unitedly pressurise the government through massive campaigns among the employees, as well as among the general public.

We earnestly request you to come forward for launching united movements, under a common platform, to ensure BSNL's early 4G launching, as well as it's financial revival. We request you to kindly convey your consent / views in this regard at the earliest.

Thanking you,

Yours fraternally,



Com. Chandeshwar Singh
Chairman, AUAB.



Com. P. Abhimanyu
Convenor, AUAB.