

ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

No: UA/2021/32

16.08.2021

To,

**Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw,
Hon'ble Minister of Communications,
Government of India,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi – 110 001**

Respected Sir,

Sub: - Launching of 4G services in BSNL – The Union Cabinet decision is not implemented for the past 22 months - BSNL Management's proposal for 4G launching, by upgradation of 4G compatible equipments already deployed in BSNL, is put on hold in the BSNL Board - The Govt. Directors from DoT may be directed to approve the proposal.

In 2019, the Union Government has taken the important decision of declaring Telecom as a strategic sector and BSNL as a strategic PSU. Thereafter, the Union Cabinet approved the BSNL Revival package on 23.10.2019. Launching of 4G services by BSNL is the most important proposal of the Revival package. Unfortunately, this crucial decision, having the real potential for BSNL's revival, is lacking the attention of the Govt and BSNL Management.

It may be noted that, the proposal for 4G launching by upgradation of the existing network was proposed by the BSNL management in December 2019 itself. However, it is learnt that, the proposal was objected to by the Board members from Govt (DoT), the owner of the company itself and got dumped.

Again, after a lot of persuasion by the employees, the BSNL management once again proposed the upgradation of the existing equipments, i.e., about 18,500 BTSs supplied by M/s Nokia, with an estimated cost of just Rs 550 crores. The Management Committee of BSNL Board approved it on 01.07.2021. The full BSNL Board, consisting of 2 additional Govt nominees from the DoT, took up the proposal for discussion on 23.07.2021, however did not approve the same. The role of the DoT and its Board members on this matter, is really unfortunate and deplorable. **We really fear that such actions will only help the private operators.**

When the Union Cabinet, under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister has taken the decision for BSNL's Revival by launching 4G services, how the Board of Directors from the DoT, are sitting on it and derailing the entire Revival package?

It may be noted that, the new tender route for procuring 4G equipments will take minimum 3 more years. By that time, the other operators would have launched 5G services and BSNL will be out of competition from the mobile market itself. BSNL Board decision will drive BSNL to that stage.

On behalf of all BSNL employees, we solicit your kind intervention, for directing the DoT and Board members from the DoT, to approve the BSNL proposal for upgradation of the existing equipments and launching of 4G services. This will be the only decision that can revive BSNL. We hope that, it will not be delayed for the safe retirement of officers in the DoT.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



**P. Abhimanyu
Convenor, AUAB.**



**Chandeshwar Singh
Chairman, AUAB.**

- Copy to: 1. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications pl.
2. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary, Govt of India for information and n/a pl.
3. Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, DoT for information and n/a pl.
4. Shri P. K. Purwar, CMD BSNL, for information and n/a pl.
5-11. All BSNL Board of Directors for information and n/a pl.