

BSNLEU records magnificent victory in the 9th Membership Verification.

BSNLEU has recorded a magnificent victory in the 9th Membership Verification, for which election was held on 12th October, 2022. This is the 8th consecutive victory for BSNLEU, in the elections being held in BSNL, for the granting of trade union recognition.

The counting of votes took place on 14th October, 2022 and the results were declared on the same day. 29,959 votes were polled out of the total votes of 31,490. 1,531 votes were not polled and invalid votes numbered 496.

Once again BSNLEU has emerged victorious in this Membership Verification and has retained its status as the Main Recognised Representative Union in BSNL. BSNLEU secured 15,311 votes, which comes to 48.62%. NFTE came 2nd with 11,201 votes which comes to 35.57%. The BMS affiliated BTEU came as the distant 3rd with 1635 votes which works out to 5.19%. FNTO has come 4th with 574 votes which comes to 1.82% votes.

By winning in the 9th Membership Verification, BSNLEU has not only recorded its 8th consecutive victory in the Membership Verification, but has also increased its voting percentage by 5.18%, compared to the 8th Membership Verification.

BSNL continues to be crippled with the financial crisis. As a result, major demands of the Non-Executives, viz., Wage Revision, Stagnation, etc., remain not settled. Still, BSNLEU has not only been able to defy the anti-incumbency factor and record its 8th consecutive victory, but has also been able to increase its votes by 5.18%. What is the secrecy behind BSNLEU's victory?

After the 8th Membership Verification, which was held in September 2019, the world witnessed an unprecedented crisis. Covid 19 pandemic engulfed India, as well as the entire world. As a result, the day to day functioning of trade unions was crippled. Most if the trade unions shut down their activities. However, despite lock down and other restrictions in the movements of the citizens, BSNLEU maintained uninterrupted and its vibrant functioning. It effectively carried out its day to day functioning and took up all the important, as well as the day to day issues of the employees.

For instance, BSNLEU played a vital role in the settlement of Rs.10 lakh as relief to the families of all the 238 Covid victims. Similarly, BSNLEU ensured the payment of Rs.3 lakh medical advance to all the Covid affected employees. It was only BSNLEU which actively took up the issue of non-disbursement of salary on the due date of every month. BSNLEU organised a series of protest actions to settle this issue.

Further, it was only BSNLEU, which stiffly resisted the abolition of thousands of posts, in the name of Restructuring. After the announcement of the 2nd Revival Package, when the employees were threatened with dismissal under FR 56(J), 2nd VRS and increase in the working hours up to 12 hours per day, it was only BSNLEU which raised the banner of revolt. Hence, the employees

are convinced beyond any doubt that, it was only BSNLEU which can protect the future of the employees and that of the company. Hence, they supported BSNLEU massively in the 9th Membership Verification.

On the other hand, NFTE, which remained dormant during the past three years, had nothing to project before the employees, as its achievements. Hence, it had no other option, but to indulge in negative campaigning against BSNLEU. NFTE remained as a silent spectator, when disbursement of salary was denied to the employees on the due date and when thousands of posts were butchered in the name of Restructuring.

But during the campaigning, NFTE stooped so low as to propagate that, it was only because of BSNLEU that, important issues such as Wage Revision and Stagnation were not settled. NFTE is having the status of the Second Recognised Union since 2013. As per Recognition Rules, both BSNLEU and NFTE have equal rights, so far as negotiations and signing of agreements. However NFTE concealed this fact before the employees and held BSNLEU responsible for the non-settlement of important issues.

In this Membership Verification, NFTE forged an alliance with SEWA BSNL. It is an open secret that, NFTE had spent a huge amount for this alliance. Com.N.D.Ram, General Secretary, travelled by air through the length and breadth of the country and unleashed a slandering campaign against BSNLEU. Who spent for his air travels? Certainly, it is only NFTE which spent a hefty amount for the air travels of Com.N.D.Ram. Undoubtedly, there is an underhand dealing between NFTE and SEWA BSNL.

Com.N.D.Ram unleashed a nasty campaign against BSNLEU and tried his best to mobilise the SC/ST employees against BSNLEU. He spread untruths and half truths against BSNLEU. For example, he propagated that, BSNLEU supported the Management in the abolition of SC/ST backlog vacancies. This is a complete lie. Similarly, Com.N.D.Ram blamed BSNLEU for not getting SC/ST reservation in the NEPP, knowing pretty well that, SC/ST reservation applies only for post-based promotions but not for upgradation of pay scales. However, by and large, SC/ST employees rejected the canards of Com.N.D.Ram and massively voted for BSNLEU.

In the 8th Membership Verification, NFTE had entered into an alliance with SNATTA. However NFTE did nothing during the last three years, to resolve the burning issues of the DR JEs. NFTE remained totally defunct during this period. At the same time, it is only BSNLEU which actively took up all the issues of the DR JEs and found solution to many of them. Hence, SNATTA got totally dejected with NFTE. As a result, SNATTA and the DR JEs dumped NFTE and massively voted for BSNLEU.

BSNLEU accepts the verdict of the employees with humility. BSNLEU resolves to serve the employees more vigorously in the days to come. ■