

Landmark CEC meeting at Chennai.

The last time, when BSNLEU conducted its Central Executive Committee meeting 'in-person', was at Vadodara in March, 2020. Thereafter, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and imposition of lock-down, we were not able to conduct the CEC meetings 'in-person'. Exactly after one year, BSNLEU conducted its Central Executive Committee meeting 'in-person', at Chennai, from 07th to 09th March, 2021. Asha Nivas, Thousand Lights, was the venue. The Tamil Nadu and Chennai circle unions under took the responsibility of hosting this CEC meeting at a very short notice and have made praise-worthy arrangements for the meeting. Despite the looming threat of COVID-19, most of the CEC members attended this meeting.

The meeting started at 10:00 am on 07.03.2021, with flag hoisting. The National Flag was hoisted by Com.Animesh Mitra, President. BSNLEU's Flag was hoisted by Com.P.Abhimanyu, General Secretary. Com.S. Chellappa, AGS, delivered the welcome address. Com.P.Abhimanyu, briefly made the initial remarks. The meeting was inaugurated by Com.A.K. Padhmanabhan, Vice President, CITU. In his speech, Com.AKP explained about the onslaughts of the

government against the public sector, its pro-corporate measures the anti-worker Labour Codes, anti-peasant Farm Acts, etc. He called on the CEC members to strengthen the organisation, as well as unity of the employees to protect BSNL as a vibrant Public Sector Company. Com.P.Abhimanyu, GS, made a brief translation in Hindi.

The Subjects Committee was presided over by Com.Animesh Mitra, President. Com.Swapan Chakraborty, Dy.GS, moved the condolence resolution. The house stood in silence for a minute and paid homage to the departed leaders. Thereafter, Com.P.Abhimanyu, GS, presented the report on activities. He explained about activities of the Union after the last CEC, the road-blocks being created by the government in the launching of BSNL's 4G service, non-settlement of the issues of the employees, issues of the contract workers, etc. All the comrades participated in the deliberations. At the end, the General Secretary delivered the summing up address. Two resolutions, one on the "Need to expedite BSNL's 4G launching" and the other on the "Emerging Worker-Peasant Unity" were passed. The following decisions are taken unanimously.

- (1) 22.03.2021 is the 20th anniversary of BSNLEU's foundation. The day should be observed by hoisting flags in all work places. Further, BSNLEU will also launch a week -long "**Street Corner Meetings**", starting on 22.03.2021. In these street corner meetings, campaign will be made among the general public against privatisation of the public sector, denial of 4G service to BSNL, road-blocks being created in BSNL's revival and the need to keep BSNL as a vibrant public sector company. A Press Meet will also be organised on 20.03.2021 in all districts and circles.
- (2) The circle and district level leaders of BSNLEU shall conduct a month long "**Meet the members**" drive, from 01st April to 30th April, 2021. The leaders shall meet each and every member during this drive and explain about the decisions of the Chennai CEC meeting and also about the pro-corporate, anti-BSNL and anti-working people policies of the government.
- (3) March to CGM offices and GM offices will be organised on 12.05.2021, demanding settlement of 3rd Wage Revision, payment of salary on the due date, immediate holding of LICEs, re-engaging the retrenched contract workers and payment of their wage arrears, immediate settlement of the medical claims of the serving and retired employees, removal of the ban on Compassionate Ground Appointments, etc. Memorandum, addressed to the CMD BSNL, demanding settlement of these burning issues, will be submitted to the CGMs and GMs.
- (4) On the demand of payment of salary on the due date, the CEC meeting has decided to organise a "sathyagraha" programme in CGM and GM offices. The date of this programme will be decided by the All India Centre.
- (5) The Joint platform of the Central Trade Unions and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) have decided to organise hunger strikes / dharnas throughout the country from 24th to 26th March, 2021, demanding withdrawal of the pro-corporate Farm Acts, withdrawal of the anti-worker Labour Codes and stopping the privatisation of the Public Sector Units. The CEC meeting has decided that maximum number of members of BSNLEU should participate in this programme, being jointly organised by the Central Trade Unions and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.



- (6) BSNLEU should organise demonstrations throughout the country on 15.03.2021, in support of the two day bank employees strike being held on 15th & 16th March, 2021, against the privatisation of the public sector banks.
- (7) BSNLEU should organise country wide demonstrations on 18.03.2021, in support of the strike of the LIC employees on 18.03.2021, opposing disinvestment in LIC.
- (8) The CEC meeting has desired to form coordination committees of BSNLEU, AIBDPA and BSNL CCWF (BSNL Casual Contract Workers Federation, to powerfully organise agitational programmes on the revival of BSNL, including the early launching of 4G service and also on the issues of the serving and retired employees, as well as on the casual and contract workers.
- (9) Due the implementation of VRS, our Union membership has drastically reduced. Due to this, and also due to inflation, many circle and district unions are facing financial crisis. Under these circumstances, the meeting decided to revise the monthly subscription of the Union, as per the decision of the Mysuru All India Conference.
- (10) Com.Bashir Ahmad Khan, CS, J&K circle, has already been suspended for 6 months, by the All India Centre. Against this, he had submitted an appeal to the CEC. Considering the gravity of his indisciplined activities, the CEC meeting decided to completely remove him from the post of Circle Secretary and also to debar him from taking office bearer post at any level of the Union, for a period of one year.
- (11) The Vadodara CEC meeting had decided that the circle secretaries who had gone on VRS should conduct the circle conference / circle executive committee meeting within a period of 2 months and should elect a serving employee as the circle secretary. This decision is not implemented so far. Hence, it is decided that, the decision of the Vadodara CEC meeting should be implemented by 31st May, 2021, failing which the All India Centre should take appropriate action.
- (12) The meeting observed that there is no coordination between the Circle Secretary and the District Unions of Jharkhand circle. Hence, the meeting authorised the CHQ to reorganise the Jharkhand circle union.
- (13) All the district conferences which have already become due should be conducted by 31st May, 2021. If the same is not conducted, then the circle secretaries can issue the notification and conduct the district conference. The meeting also decided that, in the place of the district secretaries who had already gone on VRS, serving employees should be elected.
- (14) Due to VRS, the Union membership has come down drastically in many districts. The meeting decided that, in case if the membership of a district union has become very low, then it can be merged with the nearby district union.
- (15) If the Union membership in a district is not sufficient to form the Local Council, the meeting decided that the Local Council can be formed at the Business Area level.
- (16) The Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Mysuru All India Conference, could not complete it's task, due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. It is decided that this task should be completed by 30th April, 2021. ■

