



P. Abhimanyu
General Secretary

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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BSNLEU/ 604 (DEV)

30.06.2022

To,

**Shri Ashwini Vaishnav ji,
Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT,
Government of India,
Sanchar Bhawan,
20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi- 110 001**

Sir,

Sub: - **Deadlock in BSNL's 4G launching – req.**

At the outset, we appreciate and support the measures being taken by your goodself, for the financial revival of BSNL. At the same time, we also like to draw your kind attention to the deadlock, that is prevailing in BSNL's 4G launching.

As regards the launching of BSNL's 4G service, we are informed by the BSNL Management that, the TCS would supply 4G equipments to BSNL. We are also told by the BSNL Management that, the launching of 4G service by BSNL, at the PAN India level, would materialise by December, 2022. We also learned from the media that, the Hon'ble Prime Minister would launch BSNL's 4G service on 15th August of this year.

However, despite all the rosy pictures being painted by the BSNL Management, we are pained to learn that, there is a deadlock in BSNL's 4G launching. When the private telecom companies are slated to launch their 5G service by December, 2022, it is really pathetic that, BSNL is not even in a position of launching it's 4G service.

When we are informed by the BSNL Management that, the TCS is all set to supply 4G equipments to BSNL, it is disheartening to note that, the TCS has not even completed the Proof of Concept (PoC) till today. Initially, 30th November, 2021, was the deadline for TCS to complete the PoC. Subsequently, the date was extended up to 31st December, 2021. The last extension given to TCS to complete the PoC was up to 31st January, 2022. But, we learn that, till date, the TCS has not completed the PoC.

Further, on 31st March, 2022, BSNL placed purchasing order with TCS, for procuring 6,000 sites. However, we learn that, the TCS has not accepted this purchase order till date. We learn that, bargaining on the price of the equipments is still going on, since TCS is not prepared to supply the equipments at the price quoted by BSNL. It is learned that, the TCS is advancing various reasons for making the bargaining. It is already the end of June today. If even the purchase order is not accepted by the TCS, we do not understand as to when the supply of equipments to BSNL is going to take place.

'Denial of level playing ground' to BSNL, has already been brought to the notice of the government, by BSNLEU and the AUAB. When the private telecom companies, viz., Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone Idea, are permitted by the government to procure their equipments from global vendors, why the same is being denied to BSNL? ***It is a fact that, BSNL could have successfully rolled out it's 4G service by this time, had the level playing ground not been denied to it.***

We strongly support the Hon'ble Prime Minister's "Make in India" Policy and the "Atmanirbhar Bharat". However, our only submission is that, all the telecom companies, whether in the Private Sector or in the Public Sector, should be made to uniformly adhere to these policies. We are unable to understand why BSNL alone is being made the 'Guinea pig' in the implementation of the aforementioned policies. Due to the delay in the launching of it's 4G service, the financial condition of BSNL is deteriorating day by day. Soon, BSNL may go back to the pre-VRS situation. We earnestly appeal to you to kindly make intervention in this situation.

It has been brought to our notice that, both the South Zone and West Zone alone account for a sizeable revenue collections of BSNL. Both these Zones have 19,000 sites, which could be upgraded into 4G sites by Nokia, within a matter of few weeks. We also learn that, this upgradation by Nokia would only cost BSNL around Rs.500 crore. By way of this upgradation, BSNL could launch it's 4G service in the South Zone and in the West Zone very quickly. If our information is correct, Nokia has taken the security clearance of the Indian government. In that case, why the option of launching BSNL's 4G service in the South and the West Zone, through Nokia should not be looked into.

We would like to humbly submit that, we do not want to do batting for any MNC. Our only concern is that, BSNL should launch it's 4G service immediately and it should also launch it's 5G service before it is late. If any of our information is incorrect, we are willing to stand corrected.

In view of the foregoing, we implore upon you sir, to kindly look into our views and to do the needful for the immediate launching of BSNL's 4G service.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,



(P.Abhimanyu)
General Secretary

Copy to: (1) Shri K. Rajaraman, Secretary Telecom, Government of India, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
(2) Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001
(3) Shri Arvind Vadnerkar, Director (HR), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001
(4) Ms. Yojana Das, Director (Finance), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001
(5) Shri Vivek Banzal, Director (CFA), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001
(6) Shri V. Ramesh, Director (EB), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001