

FORUM OF BSNL UNIONS / ASSOCIATIONS

*Dada Ghosh Bhawan, 2151/1, New Patel Nagar,
Opp. Shadipur Bus Depot., New Delhi – 110 008.*

Forum/103/38

25.01.2017

To

**Shri Narendra Modi ji,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi - 110 011**

Respect Sir,

Sub: - **Query of the Prime Minister's Office with regards to the Closure, Transfer to States, Status etc., in respect of BSNL – req.**

Ref: - **PMO ID No.4542267/PMO/2016-ES.I dated 30th December, 2016**

The Forum of BSNL Unions and Associations, the umbrella organisation of the unions and associations in BSNL, wishes to draw your kind attention to the above referred letter of the Prime Minister's Office, vide which the PMO has called for status report, from the Department of Telecommunications, on the implementation of the Niti Aayog's recommendations, for the Closure, Transfer to States, Status etc., of BSNL and ITI Limited. The entire 2.25 lakh Non-Executives and Executives of BSNL are shell-shocked to know that such a status report is called for by the Prime Minister's Office with regards to the Closure, etc., of BSNL.

It is pertinent to mention here that reports appeared in the media in July last year that, the Niti Aayog was proposing to start disinvestment in BSNL, through the strategic sale route. When the employees of BSNL expressed their protest, the Niti Aayog immediately issued a press statement, clarifying that it was not having any proposal to start disinvestment in BSNL, through strategic sale. However, the letter cited under reference reveals beyond any doubt that, covert steps are being taken by the Niti Aayog and the government, for the disinvestment / privatisation of BSNL. The Forum of BSNL Unions and Associations wishes to record its strongest protest against such moves of the Niti Aayog and the government.

Time and again, it has been emphasised that, a strong government telecom service provider is the need of the country. It has been proved beyond doubts that, whenever natural calamities, such as the Chennai floods, the Visakhapatnam cyclone, etc., struck the country, it was only BSNL which has helped the government in its relief and rescue operations. In fact, in many of such occasions, the private operators have shut down their services, with a view to protect their equipments and installations. Further, it is only the BSNL which has come forward to provide telecom services in the naxal – affected areas. Hence, it is needless to say that, the existence of a strong BSNL is the need of the country.

It is also pertinent to mention here that BSNL was systematically weakened at the time of the UPA government. BSNL was not allowed to procure equipments, for the expansion of its mobile networks, for almost 7 years, starting from 2006. This was the period when the country witnessed exponential growth in the mobile segment. In a calculated manner, BSNL was denied opportunity to gain from this growth. This is the main reason for the down-fall of BSNL, due to which it became a loss making entity. However, due to the appreciable steps taken by the BSNL Management and the constructive role being played by the employees and their unions and associations, BSNL is witnessing a turn-around now. Apart from taking substantial steps for the expansion of the networks, the Management has also adopted many innovative marketing strategies such as "Free Roaming", "Night Free Calling", etc., which have become a big hit among the people. On their part, the unions and associations of BSNL have rallied the employees for improving the quality of services

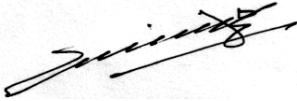
and increasing the customer satisfaction. It is worth mentioning here that, both the Management, as well as the unions and associations, have jointly launched a movement called "Service With A Smile" (SWAS) from January, 2016 onwards, which has gone a long way in increasing the revenue, as well as the customer base of BSNL.

As a result of the above stated activities, BSNL which ran in to an operational loss of Rs.691 crore in 2013-14, earned an operational profit of Rs.672 crore in 2014-15. This operational profit has further increased to Rs.3,854/- crore in 2015-16. The quality of BSNL's services, which was severely criticised once, has greatly improved now, and is accredited by none else than the TRAI. BSNL has started competing with other private operators in providing highest number of mobile connections, month wise. In terms of market share, BSNL has risen to the 4th place. Two years back, it was in the 6th place. It is very important to mention here that, BSNL has made all these improvements without any financial assistance from the Government of India.

In view of the foregoing, I appeal to you sir, on behalf of the unions and associations of BSNL, to kindly drop all proposals for the disinvestment and privatisation / closure of BSNL, in the wider interest of the nation and the people.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,



[P. Abhimanyu]
Convener,
Forum of BSNL Unions and Associations.
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Copy to: (1) Shri Manoj Sinha ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, New Delhi -110 001
(2) Shri J.S. Deepak, Secretary, DoT, New Delhi -110 001
(3) Shri N. Sivasailam, Additional Secretary, DoT, New Delhi – 110 001
(4) Shri Anupam Shrivastava, CMD BSNL, New Delhi -110 001