



P. Abhimanyu
General Secretary

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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BSNLEU/209 (CON)

17.02.2021

To,

Ms. Sandhya Nandi,
Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central),
4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building,
Parliament Street,
New Delhi – 110 001

Madam,

Sub: - **Holding of hunger strike by BSNLEU on 18.02.2021 – req.**

Most respectfully, we wish to bring the following to your kind notice on the subject mentioned above.

The BSNL employees are facing extreme financial hardship, due to the non-disbursement of salary on the due date, for the past one year. Writing of repeated letters to the Management and holding of lunch hour demonstrations, demanding disbursement of salary on the due date, have not yielded any result. It is already 17th of February today, but the salary for the month of January, 2021 is still not disbursed. The Management has not even hinted, as to when the salary is likely to be disbursed.

It is under these circumstances that, BSNLEU is organising hunger strike on 18.02.2021, demanding to disburse the salary on the due date of every month and also demanding settlement of some other burning problems of the employees. What we are organising on 18.02.2021, is only a **“fasting”** programme, to protest against the inhuman act of the Management of not disbursing salary to the employees on the due date, for the past one year. **We wish to make it very clear that, we are not going on any strike on 18.02.2021.**

The contract workers working in BSNL are also not paid wages for months together, as a result of which 14 contract workers have already committed suicide. The BSNL employees also, especially the low salaried employees, are suffocating due to the non-disbursement of salary on time.

In this connection, we wish to draw your kind attention to the order passed by the Hon’ble Delhi High Court on 20th January, 2021, in the matter of payment of salaries to the employees of the Municipal Corporations of Delhi. In it’s order, the Hon’ble Delhi High Court has stated the following:-

“Reason assigned for non-payment of timely salaries is stated to be paucity of funds which, as is well settled, cannot be an excuse for non-payment, keeping in view the fact that the right to receive salary and pension is a fundamental right enshrined under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and non-payment would have direct bearing on quality of life, the court stated.”

It is needless to state that, the BSNL Management is violating the fundamental right of the employees, as enshrined under Article 21 of Constitution, by not disbursing salary to them for the past one year.

The All India Centre meeting of BSNLEU is held today the 17-02-2021 and took stock of the outcome of the conciliation meeting conducted by the Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), yesterday the 16.02.2021. The meeting deeply regretted that the officer who represented the BSNL Management in the conciliation meeting, did not even indicate tentatively, as to when the salary for January, 2021, would be paid.

In view of this, the All India Centre decided to peacefully organise the hunger strike programme tomorrow without causing any dislocation of the services. The All India Centre meeting also reaffirmed that, there will not be any strike tomorrow, but the employees will only peacefully observe fasting.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

[P. Abhimanyu]
General Secretary