



BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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BSNLEU/ 604 (DEV)

15.10.2024

To,

**Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia ji,
Hon'ble Minister for Communications,
Sanchar Bhawan,
20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi - 110 001.**

Sub: - **Inordinate delay in the commissioning of BSNL's 4G network - requesting to temporarily permit BSNL to utilise Vodafone Idea's network for providing 4G service to customers - req.**

Ref: - (1) BSNLEU letter no.BSNLEU/604(DEV) dated 13.02.2024
(2) BSNLEU letter no.BSNLEU/604(DEV) dated 10.04.2024
(3) BSNLEU letter no.BSNLEU/604(DEV) dated 04.05.2024
(4) BSNLEU letter no.BSNLEU/604(DEV) dated 03.07.2024

Respected sir,

With reference to all our letters cited under above, we wish to bring the following for favour of your kind consideration.

BSNL's competitors, viz., Reliance Jio and Airtel have already rolled out their country wide 5G network. Still, BSNL has not started providing 4G service to it's customers. Lack of high speed data service, viz., 4G and 5G, is retarding BSNL to effectively compete with it's counterparts in the private sector. At the time of placing purchase order for the procurement of one lakh 4G BTSs with TCS, the former CMD BSNL had stated that, BSNL's 4G network would be commissioned within one year. According to that timeline, BSNL's 4G network should have been commissioned by June, 2024. Subsequently, the erstwhile CMD BSNL changed the target date of BSNL's 4G launching to December, 2024.

A few weeks back, the Secretary, Telecom, has told the media persons that, major part of BSNL's 4G rollout would be completed in this financial year, i.e., by March, 2025. Thereafter, on the occasion of the 25th Foundation Day of BSNL, the Hon'ble Minister of Communications has stated that, the installation of BSNL's one lakh 4G towers would be completed by June, 2025.

With the above inputs, it becomes clear that BSNL's Pan India level 4G service will become available only in June, 2025. In other words, BSNL's customers will have to wait for another 8 months for availing the Company's 4G service. It is needless for us to state that, this is too long a period. Crores of BSNL's customers have already migrated to the private service providers, due to the inordinate delay in BSNL's launching of it's 4G service.

We have to admit that, recently, a slight reverse in the situation has also taken place. Due to the exorbitant tariff hike by the private telecom service providers, a sizable number of customers have started migrating to BSNL, from the private companies. According to the TRAI data, in July, 2024, 29.30 lakh customers have migrated to BSNL, from private operators. To retain these customers and also to effectively compete with the private operators, BSNL needs to immediately provide 4G service to it's customers.

As per field reports, BSNL's customers are facing a lot of problems wherever 4G service is being provided. In fact, these complaints are frustrating the customers. It is obvious that, TCS's 4G technology has not yet got stabilised. Since, TCS's 4G technology is indigenous, reasonable time should be given for it to get stabilised. There is no point in hastily trying to complete the commissioning of TCS's 4G equipments.

Under the aforementioned circumstances, BSNLEU wishes to once again reiterate it's demand that, the Government of India should allow BSNL to temporarily share the 4G networks of Vodafone Idea, for immediately providing 4G service to it's customers. The Government of India, being the biggest shareholder of Vodafone Idea, can facilitate this, which will be a win-win situation for both BSNL and Vodafone Idea. Vide the 4 letters cited under reference, addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, BSNLEU has been fervently appealing to the Government of India, to enable BSNL to share the 4G networks of Vodafone Idea, which will provide the much needed breathing time to this Public Sector telecom company.

Once again, we whole-heartedly appeal to you sir, to kindly provide the opportunity to BSNL to temporarily share the 4G network of Vodafone Idea, to provide immediate relief to the gasping customers of BSNL.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely



[P. Abhimanyu]
General Secretary

Copy to: - 1) Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Telecom, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001
2) Shri A. Robert J. Ravi, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, H.C.Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110001