

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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Central Head Quarters

P. Abhimanyu General Secretary Main Recognised Representative Union.

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18.12.2019

BSNLEU/604 (DEV)

To,

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Ji, Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001

Sir,

Sub: - Extending financial assistance to BSNL to overcome the hiccups faced on it's way to financial recovery - reg.

We wish to draw your kind attention to the following, for favour of your immediate intervention and necessary action.

The Government of India approved a revival package for BSNL on 23rd October, 2019. Administrative allotment of 4G spectrum, implementation of VRS, mobilisation of funds for the revival of BSNL, are the salient features of this revival package. According to the revival package, VRS-2019 has been implemented and around 80,000 employees have opted for it. In the meanwhile, all the private operators, viz., Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Jio have announced a steep increase in their tariffs, ranging from 40% to 45%. If BSNL also falls in line, it's revenue collections are likely to increase sizeably.

However, it is disappointing to note that, BSNL has not been able to do anything substantial, in the matter of rolling out of it's 4G service, despite the fact that, the administrative allotment of 4G spectrum has already been made by the government. On enquiry, we came to know that BSNL owes around Rs.3,800 crores to the equipment vendors, viz., ZTE, Nokia, Ericcsson, etc. It is also learnt that, these equipment vendors are in no mood to upgrade BSNL's BTSs, unless the outstanding dues are cleared.

Further, BSNL is still struggling to make payment of it's electricity bills, apart from being unable to make payment of the bills of vendors and contractors. Contract workers, working in BSNL, are not paid wages almost for the past 12 months. This issue is recently raised in the floor of the Parliament also. The deductions made from employees' salaries, towards various dues, are not remitted to the concerned organisations, for the past 7 to 8 months, which is causing extreme hardships to the employees. Salary to the employees for the month of November, 2019, is also not yet paid. It is also learnt that, the expected bank loans are also getting delayed.

All the above mentioned details reveal the fact that, BSNL is facing hiccups, on it's way to financial recovery. This is due to the acute shortage in the Company's cash flow. It is needless to state that BSNL's financial condition is poised to stabilise in the months to come. However, the Company is badly in need of some kind of financial assistance, to manage it's requirements atleast for the next few months.

In view of the foregoing, we earnestly implore upon you to kindly look into the matter and to take the needful steps, so that the financial recovery of BSNL is not hampered and that the Company is enabled to take full advantage of the revival package that has been extended by the government.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

[P. Abhimanyu] General Secretary

Copy to: (1) Shri Anshu Prakash, Secretary, Telecom, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001

(2) Shri P.K. Purwar, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001.

(3) Shri S.K. Gupta, Director (Finance), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001.