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BSNLEU/ 604 (DEV)

17.01.2024

To,

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

Respected sir,

Sub: - **Massive exodus of customers in BSNL - extreme delay in commissioning 4G equipments by the TCS - requesting for your kind intervention - req.**

Most respectfully we wish to bring the following to your kind notice, for favour of taking appropriate action.

Being the Main Recognised Trade Union in BSNL, we feel that it is our bounden duty to bring the alarming situation prevailing in BSNL to your kind notice. As per the data released by the TRAI, tens of lakhs of customers are leaving BSNL every month. In August, 2023, 22,20,654 customers have left BSNL. This number has increased to 23,26,751 in September, 2023. The number of customers who have left BSNL in 2022 was 77 lakh. During the same period, Reliance Jio and Airtel have gained customers massively.

It is needless for us to state that, BSNL is facing such a dire situation only because of its inability to provide high speed data service to its customers. While Reliance Jio and Airtel have already rolled out their 5G service throughout the country, BSNL is struggling to compete with them with 2G & 3G technologies. The launching of BSNL's 4G service is getting terribly delayed and the same is nowhere in sight.

BSNL has placed its Purchase Order with the TCS, for the supply of 1 lakh 4G sites. In this connection, The Economic Times published a news item with the following caption on 24th May, 2023, quoting a statement reportedly made by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications:-

**BSNL 4G to go live in next 2 weeks;
5G by December: Ashwini Vaishnaw.**

"BSNL has started rolling out of 4G network with 200 sites, and after a three-month trial, it will launch an average of 200 sites per day, Union IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. The minister said the 4G network of BSNL will be upgraded to 5G by November-December". (copy of this news item is enclosed)

We wish to bring to your kind notice that, whatever is contained in the above cited statement has not happened. Contrary to the above statement of the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, the commissioning of BSNL's 4G equipments by the TCS is getting unbearably delayed. So far, the TCS has not even completed the field level trials of it's 4G equipments. No one knows when the field trials would get completed and TCS would start the commissioning of BSNL's 4G equipments.

The CMD BSNL has informed the unions and associations that, the commissioning of BSNL's 4G equipments by the TCS would be completed by October, 2024. This target date of October, 2024 itself is too long, considering the dire situation in which BSNL has been placed. However, it seems that meeting this target date itself has now become impossible.

It will not be out of context for us to mention here that, the Union Cabinet took decision on 23rd October, 2019 for making administrative allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL. It is already more than 3 years since this decision is taken by the Union Cabinet. Still, BSNL has not been able to roll out its 4G service.

Two decisions taken by the government has costed BSNL dearly, in the matter of launching its 4G service. Firstly, BSNL was not allowed to upgrade its own existing 4G compatible equipments, for launching its 4G service. Secondly, BSNL was denied parity with the private telecom companies, in the matter of procuring its 4G equipments from global vendors.

Since BSNL is mandated by the government to procure it's 4G equipments only from indigenous manufacturers, we feel that it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that, the supply of 4G equipments by the TCS is not delayed any further. If the exodus of customers from BSNL is not contained immediately, revival of the Company will become extremely difficult even after its launching 4G and 5G services.

Under the above mentioned circumstances, we beseech your personal intervention to enable BSNL to tide over this difficult situation, by speedy launching of its 4G and 5G services.

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 P.K.Purwar, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, H.C.Mathur Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110001

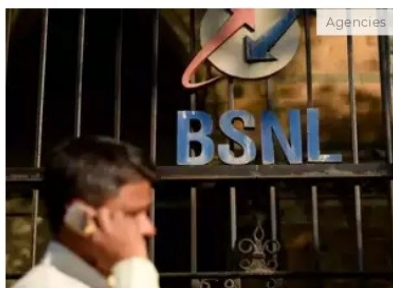
Encl: - As above.

BSNL 4G to go live in next 2 weeks; 5G by December: Ashwini Vaishnaw

By PTI | Last Updated: May 24, 2023, 10:47:00 PM IST

Synopsis

BSNL has started rolling out of 4G network with 200 sites, and after a three-month trial, it will launch an average of 200 sites per day, Union IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday. The minister said the 4G network of BSNL will be upgraded to 5G by November-December.



[BSNL](#) has started rolling out of 4G network with 200 sites, and after a three-month trial, it will launch an average of 200 sites per day, [Union IT and Communications](#) Minister [Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) said on Wednesday. The minister said the 4G network of BSNL will be upgraded to 5G by November-December.

"The 4G-5G telecom stack we have developed in [India](#). That stack deployment started with BSNL. Between Chandigarh and Dehradun, 200 sites installations have been done and within the next maximum of two weeks, it will go live," [Vaishnaw](#) said.

BSNL has placed an advance purchase order of over Rs 19,000 crore with [Tata Consultancy Services](#) and [ITI](#) Limited for the deployment of a 4G network, comprising more than 1.23 lakh sites.

"The speed at which BSNL will deploy, you will be surprised. After testing for three months, we will be doing 200 sites a day. That is the average at which we will go. BSNL network will work initially like 4G. Very soon, somewhere around November- December, with a very small software adjustment this will become 5G," Vaishnaw said.

He was speaking to reporters after commissioning the 2,00,000th site in [Gangotri](#) along with [Uttarakhand](#) Chief Minister [Pushkar Singh](#) Dhami.

"Today practically every minute one 5G site is getting activated. The world is surprised. It is a matter of pride for us that the 2,00,000th site has been installed in Chardham," Vaishnaw said.

The Prime Minister has said that India will stand along with the world in 5G and take the lead in 6G, he noted. Vaishnaw said that gone are the days when technology transfers used to be signed.

"Today India has become a technology exporter," Vaishnaw added.

The first 1 lakh 5G sites were rolled out within 5 months of the launch of service by the Prime Minister on October 1. The next 1 lakh sites have been rolled out in three months.

"We had set a target to have around 1.5 lakh sites by December 31, 2023. Already 2 lakh sites have been completed, I feel by December 31, it should be more than 3 lakh sites," Vaishnaw said.

He said that countries like the US have started deploying made-in-India telecom technologies.

"Today, devotees of Chardham have received a present in the form of a 5G site. Now, our border area will also get wrapped up with mobile connectivity. The dream that we saw of high-speed connectivity in the hilly area of Uttarakhand has been fulfilled today," Dhami said.

He said that the start of high-speed service will help in relief and disaster management, surveillance, and boost the economy.

The ministers also dedicated optical fibre connectivity of Chardham -- Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamnotri and Gangotri -- in Uttarakhand to the nation.