



P. Abhimanyu
General Secretary

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

Central Head Quarters

Ph.: 011-25705385
Fax : 011-25894862

Main Recognised Representative Union.
Dada Ghosh Bhawan, 2151/1, New Patel Nagar,
Opp. Shadipur Bus Depot, New Delhi-110008
E-mail : bsnleuchq@gmail.com, Website : www.bsnleu.in

BSNLEU/ 304 (ASM)

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To,

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

Sir,

Sub: - **Massive scam in NOFN works done in Jorhat SSA of Assam circle - requesting to take appropriate action – req.**

We wish to draw your kind attention to a massive scam that has taken place in Jorhat district of Assam circle. We are writing this, based on the inputs received from the All Unions and Associations of BSNL(AUAB), Assam circle, as well the circle union of BSNL Employees Union, Assam circle. We request you to kindly look into this issue seriously and to take expeditious action.

The matter relates to the huge corruption that has taken place in the NOFN works of Jorhat SSA of BSNL Assam Circle. This has been done in close collaboration between the retired GM of Jorhat, Shri Hari Singh Pawar (retired on 31.03.2020) and the present CGM of Assam Circle, Shri Sandeep Govil. It is estimated that the scam has caused an estimated loss of Rs.20 crore to the government. Further, it is also learnt that, instead of taking steps for recovering such a huge loss, Shri Sandeep Govil, CGMT Assam, has facilitated the peaceful retirement of Shri H. S. Pawar and has also allowed the Pension Cell of the Department of Telecom, Guwahati, to process the payment of all his terminal benefits, such as Pension, Gratuity, Leave Encashment, etc.

We wish to state emphatically that, only due to the patronage and protection received by Shri H.S. Pawar, from Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, Assam, such a huge scam has taken place. We seek to draw kind your attention to this sensitive matter, through a brief description in the following paragraphs.

NOFN scam in Jorhat SSA Assam circle

The complaint relates to the irregularities in Optical Fiber Cable laying works, where laying was done by manual / open trenching method (cost Rs.90,000/- per km). But bills were claimed and paid by showing that the work was done by HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling)/machine boring costing Rs.2,30,000/- per km.

- (1) In NOFN Project, BSNL was entrusted to lay incremental fiber and to provide High Speed Broadband in the GPs (Gram Panchayats) by tapping the incremental fibers to the primary existing fibers of BSNL. BBNL is supposed to provide the fund for laying the incremental fibre and for the primary fiber leased from BSNL, BBNL would pay lease rent to BSNL. In this way, BSNL's primary fiber was proposed to be used for NOFN project in Jorhat SSA, Assam.
- (2) In the NOFN works two types of works are there.
 - a) BBNL has given contract to BSNL to lay cable to Gram panchyat(GPs) from the points where BSNL is having existing Optical fiber network and can extend fiber to BBNL.
 - b) If BSNL's existing cable becomes defective then that portion can also be laid.
- (3) It is learnt that, out of the BSNL's primary cable, proposed to be used for NOFN project and for which BSNL was supposed to get monthly rental income, about 180 kilometers of OFC was unnecessarily declared as faulty, in many places of Jorhat district and approval was given by the CGM, Shri Sandeep Govil, for replacement of those faulty cables by laying new OFC. The approval for replacement of the so called defective cable in Jorhat SSA, during the tenure of Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, Assam, was many times higher than the approval given to other SSAs, for such works. BSNL would have got handsome revenue from BBNL in the forthcoming years. However, the unwanted replacement of the existing BSNL cables, through a well-planned corruption, has offset this revenue.

Again, such approvals are generally given, considering that the OFC laying would be done by the normal open / manual trenching method, since most of the areas are rural areas, where open trenching can be easily done. But, Shri Hari Singh Pawar, GM Jorhat, with the tacit approval of Shri Sandeep Govil, has manipulated and shown all such open / manual trenching works, which cost approximately Rs.90,000/- per km, to HDD (Horizontal Directional Drilling) or machine boring works, which cost much higher, i.e. approx. Rs.2,30,000/- per km. Actually, the contractor had laid the OF cable only by open trenching method, but billed it as per HDD rate, i.e., at Rs.2,30,000/ per kilo meter. It is learnt that almost 600Kms of cable laying works is shown as done through HDD method. Further, at many places already approved route lengths were further increased, with the support and approval of Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM.

It is also reported that, Shri H. S. Pawar could manage such a fraud by keeping many loopholes in the Tender, as well as by modification or non-inclusion of important tender clauses. Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, is well aware of all such manipulations of Shri H.S. Pawar. However, the CGM totally supported Shri H.S.Pawar, by giving necessary approvals from Circle Office, as well as by managing the funds for payments from Corporate Office and allotment to Jorhat SSA.

Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, has allowed Shri H.S.Pawar to tamper the files, which otherwise could have been used as evidence to prosecute the duo as well as to complete all pending works in NOFN files, Planning Section Files, incomplete tender works, allotment of works to desired contractors.

Shri Sandeep Govil, despite having full knowledge of such financial irregularities in Jorhat SSA, always chose to turn a blind eye towards Shri H. S. Pawar during the complete two years of his tenure as CGM till now. It is reported that NOFN works are directly monitored and supervised by CGMs and all the fund requisition are sent to Corporate Office with the signature of CGMs.

Thus, Sri H. S. Pawar was issued Retirement Order on 31st March, 2020, by Assam Circle Administration. Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, chose not to divulge any detail related to the complaint on Shri H.S. Pawar, to the Pension Office of the Department of Telecom in Guwahati. Shri Sandeep Govil also certified that there was no registered corruption case against Shri H.S. Pawar. As a result, it is learnt that his pension case has also been settled by the DOT. As this is a big scam, how it could have happened ? Mr. Sandeep Govil could have stopped his pensionary benefit as it is learnt that CVO, BSNL, office has initiated action.

Further, after the retirement of Shri H.S.Pawar, Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, appointed Sri Ranjit Kumar Basumatary as the GM, Jorhat. Sri Ranjit Kumar Basumatary was working as DGM (Planning) under Sri H. S. Pawar, before his retirement and is an accomplice in all his illegal works. Despite, knowing fully well about the same, Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, appointed Shri Ranjit Basumatary as GM, Jorhat, only to cover up all the corruptions that have taken place in the NOFN works.

A complaint letter was given by the All Unions and Associations of BSNL (AUAB) on 04-05-2020, wherein the AUAB has pointed out that, Sri H. S. Pawar was coming and sitting in his office almost regularly, even after his retirement. It was also alleged in that letter that he was tampering with all the evidences available against his corrupt works in the files. The AUAB has also accused that on 04-05-2020, Shri H.S.Pawar had taken 10 files to his residence, to tamper the evidences. However, Shri Sandeep Govil, CGM, did not take any step to stop this unlawful activity of Shri H.S.Pawar. It is also needless to state that Shri H.S.Pawar has carried out this unlawful activity with the support of the incumbent GM, Jorhat, Shri Ranjit Kumar Basumatary.

In view of the foregoing, we request you to kindly initiative expeditious action to unearth the huge scam that has taken place in the NOFN works of Jorhat SSA in Assam circle. If people like Shri Sandeep Govil, Shri H.S. Pawar and Shri Ranjit Kumar Basumatary are allowed to escape, by destroying evidences, then it will be a very big disappointment for the entire Executives and Non-Executives of BSNL in Assam Circle who are running from pillar to post and are doing everything possible, to ensure that BSNL comes into profit again, as per the Union Government's plan to revive this prestigious PSU.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



[P. Abhimanyu]
General Secretary

Copy to: (1) Shri H.S. Sohal, Chief Vigilance Officer, BSNL, Eastern Court, Janpath, New Delhi – 01 on cvo@bsnl.co.in
(2) Shri M Akhaya, Chief Vigilance Officer, DoT, Sanchar Bhavan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 01on cvo-dot@gov.in