



CENTRE OF INDIAN TRADE UNIONS

भारतीय ट्रेड यूनियन केन्द्र

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CITU Denounces Telecom Reforms announced by Govt

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) denounces the decisions of the Central Government in the name of so called telecom sector reforms which brazenly discriminates against the public sector BSNL and MTNL and foregoes huge revenues to the tune of whopping 1.31 lakh rupees in favour of private sector telecom companies. Union Cabinet has decided to allow deferment of payment of the outstanding dues of Rs 1.31 lakh crore from the private telecom companies ignoring the Supreme Court order upholding payment of these legitimate dues, which ultimately belong to the people. In addition, central government has declared that if they fail to pay even after four years moratorium, all these dues would be converted into equity. While private telecom tycoons are allowed this bonanza at the cost of national exchequer, the long outstanding dues of Rs 39,000 crore from the Govt to BSNL, is not being paid back making BSNL severely handicapped in augmenting its operational efficiency and network –again to the advantage of its private sector competitors.

And this is not all. In this so called big bang telecom reforms, nothing is offered to help and to improve the services provided by the public sector BSNL and MTNL including operation of 4G services. BSNL is already crippled as the government is not allowing BSNL to procure 4G equipments from the sources of its choice, while private companies are being freely allowed to procure these equipments from global vendors. BSNL has been compelled to procure its 4G equipments only from domestic vendors. No Indian company is having proven 4G technology to compete with private service providers. Thus, the government has deliberately created the road-blocks in the launching of 4G services by BSNL. Moreover, by allowing 100% FDI through automatic route, the Central government has allowed the MNCs to completely take over Indian Telecom Sector which has also implications on national security.

Such brazenly discriminatory policy regime in Telecom Sector is integral to Central Govt's grand plan of total privatization of national assets, the infrastructural assets in particular, and drainage from public exchequer in favour of private corporate, foreign and domestic.

CITU calls upon the working class to oppose such anti-PSU anti-national designs of the Govt through united struggle.

Issued by


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