

BSNL employees have a ‘Vodafone plan’ to take on Reliance Jio and Airtel

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BSNL wants to use Vi's 4G network to retain customers while waiting for TCS to deploy BSNL's 4G network. The delay in BSNL's 4G launch is making it lose customers to other providers like Jio and Airtel. The government's permission is sought, as they are the largest stakeholder in Vi.

BSNL, a government-owned telecom operator, has proposed a plan compete with its bigger rivals like Airtel and Reliance Jio. The employee union of BSNL has sent a letter to the Telecom and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, requesting permission to use Vodafone-Idea's 4G network. The letter is said to be from BSNL employee's union General Secretary P Abhimanyu and was reported by The Economic Times.

In the letter, BSNL union has claimed that due to the nonavailability of 4G services a huge number of its customers are porting out to rival telecom service providers like Reliance Jio and Airtel. Both these players, the letter said, offer “state-of-the-art 5G technology.”

Why BSNL wants to use Vodafone-Idea’s 4G network.

BSNL union wants to use Vodafone-Idea’s 4G network to help retain its subscribers. In the letter, BSNL union pointed out that the government of India being the largest shareholder in Vodafone-Idea with 33.1% share can easily facilitate the sharing of 4G network between the two. Also, it said that Vodafone-Idea has been losing customers and its network is not congested, so this kind of arrangement can be good for both the companies.

Incidentally, the letter terms this sharing of 4G network as a temporary measure only. “This will only be a temporary measure, till BSNL’s 4G network is commissioned by TCS,” it said.

Status of BSNL 4G.

TCS is set to deploy BSNL’s 4G network in a phased manner. In some circles, a few thousand sites are already up and running. However, as the network is not available pan-India, the state-run telecom company is said to be losing customers.
