

On the issue of spectrum for BSNL

The license period of 2G spectrum granted to BSNL free of cost in view of its social in 900MHz and 1800 MHz is going to end in 2020. It was granted free of cost in view of the social obligations carried out by it. As per the policy of the Government, spectrum has to be acquired by participating in the auction and paying the amount accordingly. It will be a huge amount that the BSNL which is already in losses due to the wrong policies of the Government, cannot afford. As per the reports in the news papers, the CMD BSNL has requested the Government to extend the license period for the 2G spectrum until 2022 since the BSNL was allowed to start mobile services in 2002 only and the 20 years period accordingly will be over in 2022. But it will be a small relief only. It is necessary to provide adequate spectrum for BSNL free of cost for another 20 years.

The importance of data is growing in telecom sector and the revenue earning of any telecom services company will be mainly from data services and voice calls are being provided free of cost. In such a scenario, it will not be possible for any telecom company to survive without the capability for providing high speed, effective data services. For this it is necessary for providing quality 4G/5G spectrum for BSNL. As per the news paper reports, the CMD BSNL has requested the Government to provide 5MHz quantity of spectrum in 700 MHz band and treat the cost of this spectrum as the equity of the Government.

But there is no response from the Government. On the other hand, as a part of its policy for destroying and privatizing the Public Sector undertakings, it has decided to create a subsidiary tower company by handing over all the towers of BSNL to it. Already, a committee was formed by DoT for It is meant for subsequently privatizing the tower company and for weakening BSNL further. Already a committee was formed with DoT and BSNL Officers and also a consultant is being hired by BS NL so that the modalities for forming the tower company would be placed before the BSNL Board in December 2017.

This meeting of the CEC of BSNL EU held at New Delhi on 7th & 8th November, 2017 strongly condemns this attitude of the Government and demands it to provide adequate quality spectrum in the required bands free of cost to BSNL and to drop the formation of the subsidiary tower company and to take all the steps demanded by the Unions and Associations of BSNL for making BSNL a vibrant, people oriented, profit making PSU with 100% owned by the Government.

This meeting congratulates the decision of the Unions and Associations unitedly for organizing the human chain program on 16.11.2017 and two days strike on 12th & 13th December 2017 demanding wage revision from 1.1.2017 and stopping the formation of the subsidiary tower company.

This meeting urges the CHQ of BSNL EU for focusing the serious issue of the availability of spectrum for BSNL as detailed above and to mobilize all for a united action on the issue of spectrum.
