

BSNL employee group alleges non-payment of salaries



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NEW DELHI: BSNL Employee Union (BSNLEU) has alleged that the state-run telco has been repeatedly failing to disburse salaries to the employees on time, and also highlighted the management’s apathy towards the telco’s employees.

It added that BSNL is yet to disburse the salary of the employees for the month of November 2020.

“The union is most pained to note that, the management has abdicated its responsibility of disbursing salary to the employees as per the existing terms and the conditions, i.e., on the last working day of every month. Further, it is also forcing the employees to come to the streets and to demonstrate every month, for getting their salary,” the group said in an official statement.

It reiterated that it has been writing to BSNL CMD regarding the concerns of employees. However, it alleged that there has been no respite yet.

“In all the letters, BSNLEU has demanded that salary should be disbursed on the last working day of the month. It is disturbing to note that the management has not at all cared about all these letters and the pleadings of the Union have fallen in deaf ears,” it added.

The group has demanded timely payment of salary for the month of November and December also, in view of the new year. It reasoned that the management “cannot take shelter” by citing economic hardships arising due to the Covid pandemic as commercial activities have mostly resumed across the country.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) recently extended the unified license (UL) for the next 20 years to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and has also allowed offering services in Delhi and Mumbai metropolitan areas after the latter submitted a bank guarantee (BG) worth Rs 250-crore, ET reported in its December 12 edition.

This will allow the ailing telco to provide seamless 2G, 3G, and 4G services across all telecom circles in the 900MHz, 1800MHz, 2100MHz, and 2500 spectrum bands.

Last year in October, the Cabinet approved a mega voluntarily retirement scheme (VRS) as a part of the revival package of the two financially-stressed telecom carriers. The VRS Scheme was opted for by as many as 78,569 employees of BSNL and by 14,387 employees of MTNL and enabled the telcos to cut salary expenses by almost 50%.

BSNL, on an annual basis, reduced wage bill from nearly Rs 1,400 crore to Rs 7,000 crore and MTNL from Rs 2,250 crore to Rs 500 crore.