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## **Press statement**

**Dated: 26.08.2021**

## ***Protest Demonstrations against Monetisation.***

The Narendra Modi government has taken a giant move to allow Indian and foreign corporates to take over the national assets of our country. In the name of “**National Monetisation Pipeline**” (**NMP**), the government has decided to hand over the national assets at throw away price to the corporates. The argument of the government that, the ownership of these assets will continue to remain with the government itself, is nothing but a “sugar-coated poison”.

According to the announcement of the government, 26,700 kms Highway (worth Rs.1.6 lakh crore), 400 railway stations and 150 trains (worth Rs.1.5 lakh crore), 42,300 circuit kms of Power Transmission Lines (worth Rs.0.67 lakh crore), 5,000 MW Hydro, Solar and Wind Power Generation assets (worth Rs.0.32 lakh crore), 8,000 kms of National Gas Pipe lines (worth Rs.0.24 lakh crore), 4,000 kms Pipe lines of IOC and HPCL (worth Rs.0.22 lakh crore), 2.86 lakh kms of Bharatnet Optic Fibre and 14,917 towers of BSNL and MTNL (worth Rs.0.35 lakh crore), 21 Airports and 31 Ports (worth Rs.0.3 lakh crore), 160 Coal Mining Projects (worth Rs.0.3 lakh crore) and 2 Sports Stadiums (worth Rs.0.11 lakh crore) are going to be sold to the Indian and foreign corporates in the name of “Monetisation”.

As pointed out above, it is disturbing to note that, the government has decided to hand over 2.86 lakh kms of Bharatnet Optic Fibre, as well as 14,917 mobile towers of BSNL and MTNL. Accordingly, the entire high speed internet backbone of the country, constructed with the people’s money, is going to be handed over to the corporates. Similarly, the handing over of the 14,917 mobile towers to the corporates, is nothing but the beginning of privatisation of BSNL and MTNL. The handing over of the mobile towers to the corporates will deliver a body blow to BSNL and MTNL. Now, it has become clear, why the Modi government has been creating road-blocks for the past one year and eight months, in the launching of 4G service by BSNL. It is only because, the government had already made up it’s mind to sell out BSNL’s mobile towers. If this is allowed, then the next target of the government will be, BSNL’s 7 lakh route kilometre length of Optic Fibre.

BSNL Employees Union strongly opposes the handing over of the Nation’s wealth to the corporates, in the name of “National Monetisation Pipeline” and demands that the same should be stopped. To express it’s opposition to Monetisation, BSNLEU calls upon the entire BSNL employees to organise protest Lunch Hour Demonstrations throughout the country tomorrow the 27.08.2021.

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