

ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

Press statement

Dated: 11.08.2020

The AUAB condemns the atrocious outbursts of Shri Ananthakumar Hegde, MP.

It is extremely shocking to note that Shri Anantkumar Hegde, BJP MP, from Karnataka has branded the entire BSNL employees as traitors. In an event, held yesterday the 10th August, 2020, at Kumta, in Uttara Kannada district, Shri Hegde has stated that BSNL is filled with traitors.

The speech of Shri Anantkumar Hegde is reported in today's Deccan Herald. Shri Hegde has also stated that, the government has provided funds and technology to BSNL and still the employees of BSNL are not working. He has also stated that BSNL has become a black mark for the entire country. Shri Hegde has vowed that BSNL would be finished. He has also stated that more than 88,000 employees of BSNL would be fired and that, BSNL would be privatised.

The outbursts of Shri Anantkumar Hegde are deplorable and the "All Unions and Associations of BSNL (AUAB)" strongly condemns them. Whenever, natural calamities like cyclone, floods, etc., struck the nation, it was BSNL which provided service for relief and rescue operations, while the private telecom companies used to shut-down their services.

It is an undeniable fact that, only the anti-BSNL and pro-private policies of the successive governments at the centre, that have weakened BSNL and pushed it into loss making. On the other hand, the patriotic BSNL employees have launched many movements, to improve the quality of services and to increase the customer satisfaction.

The "Customer Delight Year", "Service With A Smile", "BSNL at Your Door Steps" are some of the drives, launched by the BSNL Unions and Associations, to improve the efficiency of BSNL and to improve it's financial position. Thus, the statement of Shri Anantkumar Hegde, branding the BSNL employees as traitors, only exposes his ignorance about BSNL and it's employees.

It is true that on 23rd October, 2019, the Government of India announced a Revival Package for BSNL and MTNL. However, except retrenching 79,000 employees under VRS, all other assurances given for the revival of BSNL, still remain on paper. Shri Hegde has stated that the government has given funds and technology to BSNL. This is nothing but a travesty of truth.

On paper, the government has allotted 4G spectrum to BSNL. Based on this, BSNL floated a tender in March, 2020, to procure equipments to roll out it's 4G service, at the cost of Rs.9,000 crore. However, soon thereafter, the government has directed BSNL to cancel this tender, based on a flimsy complaint raised by an inconsequential organisation called TEPC. The cancellation of this tender, as per the decision of the government, has deprived BSNL of it's 4G service. Further, apart from the retrenchment of 79,000 employees under VRS, BSNL has not received a single naya paisa from the tax payers money, for it's revival.

When, this being the facts, the statements made by Shri Hegde that, the government has provided funds and technology to BSNL, whereas the employees are not willing to work, is highly misleading.

The AUAB calls upon Shri Anantkumar Hegde, MP, to desist from issuing such atrocious and irresponsible statements in future.



P. Abhimanyu,
Convenor,
All Unions and Associations of BSNL
Mobile No.:9868231113