

ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

No: UA/2020/15

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Circular

To

General Secretaries of all the constituents of the AUAB.

Dear comrades,

The online meeting of the AUAB was held on 05th December, 2020. The meeting started at 15:00 hrs. The attendance of the meeting is as follows.

BSNLEU: Com. P. Abhimanyu, GS, BSNLEU & Convenor and Com. Swapan Chakraborty, Dy. GS

SNEA: Com. K. Sebastin, GS.

AIBSNLEA: Com. S. Sivakumar, GS.

FNTO: Com. K. Jayaprakash, GS.

BSNL MS: Com. Suresh Kumar, GS.

SNATTA: Com. Suresh Kumar, GS.

BSNL OA: Com. H.P. Singh, GS.

Com.C. Singh, Chairman, AUAB had expressed his inability to attend the meeting, due to preoccupation with domestic engagements. Hence, Com.K. Sebastin, GS, SNEA, presided over the meeting.

In his presidential address Com.K. Sebastin made the following observations. "BSNL is facing attacks from all sides. If we don't remain united it will be very difficult to save BSNL. In the past also, only the employees have protected BSNL through their struggles and not the Management. The AUAB has already sent letter to all the Unions and Associations, which are not part of the AUAB, requesting them to join the AUAB, for organising united actions. If they make a positive move, we will welcome them."

Com.P. Abhimanyu, Convenor, welcomed everyone and presented the agenda for the meeting. Discussion on agenda items took place as per the following details.

Inordinate delay in the launching of 4G services by BSNL.

Without the rolling out of its 4G service, BSNL cannot survive beyond two years. Even now, the MNP ratio is 1:4. In UP(East) the MNP ratio is 1:8. Under these circumstances, our apprehensions are proved to be correct. The Empowered Technology Group (ETG), headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) has approved the line of the DoT Committee under the Chairmanship of Member(T), that core equipments should be procured only from domestic vendors.

Hence, the AUAB decided to write to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to the Hon'ble Minister of Communications, demanding:-

- (a) There should not be any discrimination between BSNL and the private operators, in the name of "Make in India" policy and BSNL alone should not be compelled to procure domestic equipments.
- (b) Out of the upgradable 49,300 BTSs, 13,300 BTSs are supplied by M/s Nokia and 36,000 BTSs are supplied by M/s ZTE. They are all 4G compatible 2G & 3G BTSs. Even though, the government has banned procurement of equipments from Chinese companies, the already installed Chinese equipments continue to be operational. The same is the case with private operators also. Under these circumstances, BSNL should be allowed to get its all 2G & 3G BTSs upgraded into 4G BTSs and to launch 4G services.
- (c) BSNL's 4G service launching is delayed by four years, compared to others and one year after the Cabinet decided to allot 4G spectrum. Since this delay is attributed to the policy of the government, BSNL should be compensated appropriately.

- (d) The equipments of phase 8.4 expansion are supplied by M/s Nokia as L1. 4G BTSs can be procured through that tender, by way of placing Add on purchasing order. Hence, the government should allow BSNL to procure 4G BTSs from the phase 8.4 tender. It is important to note that the DoT Committee, headed by the Member (Technology), has also recommended this.

Subsidiary Tower Company.

The meeting took note of the fact that, the Subsidiary Tower Company is kept operational for carrying out certain Non-core works, under the pretext that, the revenue generated from these works will not be included in the AGR. The meeting decided that the AUAB should write to the Government and BSNL Management, cautioning that, any attempt that would be made by the Management or the government, to hive off BSNL's mobile towers to this Subsidiary Tower Company, or converting it to a Joint Venture, or going in for disinvestment, would invite militant struggles.

Outsourcing of works and deterioration of the quality of services.

BSNL Management has outsourced works related to the maintenance of landline, OFC and broadband connections. The outsourcing of works has resulted in serious deterioration of the quality of service. As a result, huge disconnection of landline and broadband connections is taking place. Similarly, the large scale retrenchment of contract workers is having a very negative impact on the quality of services. It is decided that the AUAB should writes to the Management demanding suitable remedial actions.

Thanking you,

Yours fraternally,



**P. Abhimanyu,
Convenor, AUAB.**