

ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)

No: UA/2021/53 (i)

12.08.2022

To,

Shri Ashwini Vaishnav ji,
Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT,
Government of India,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi- 110 001

Respected Sir,

Sub: - **Forwarding the resolution on "the abnormal delay in BSNL's 4G launching", passed in the AUAB meeting held on 11.08.2022 – reg.**

We are bringing to your kind notice that, the following resolution on "the abnormal delay in BSNL's 4G launching", is passed in the AUAB meeting held on 11.08.2022. This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Resolution on abnormal delay in BSNL's 4G launching.

The AUAB, which is the joint platform of all the major trade unions of the Non-Executives and Associations of the Executives, held it's meeting on 11.08.2022. According to the AUAB, BSNL's revival is unimaginable, without the immediate launching of 4G service by the Company. However, the AUAB is dismayed to note that, the launching of BSNL's 4G service is nowhere in sight. It is needless to state that, the condition of BSNL is becoming more vulnerable due to the launching of 5G service by the private operators. Thus, the first and the foremost step that the government can do for ensuring the revival of BSNL, is to allow the Company to launch it's 4G service, with proven technology and with world class equipments that match the standard of the equipments of the private companies.

However, the insistence of the government that, BSNL should procure it's 4G equipments only from Indian vendors, has done irreparable damage to the Company. The TCS has been identified for the supply of 4G equipments to BSNL. However, the deadlines set by the DoT for the completion of PoC, have not been met by the TCS. Further, the Purchase Order placed by BSNL on 31st March, 2022, for the procurement of 6,400 4G BTs, has not been accepted by the TCS so far. Serious doubts are there, whether the equipments to be supplied by the TCS will match the quality of the equipments deployed by the private operators.

All the private operators are placing their Purchase Orders with the global vendors, for the procurement of their 5G equipments. In such a situation, why BSNL should be compelled to procure it's 4G equipments only from Indian vendors. And that too, when no Indian vendor is having the proven technology to supply 4G equipments. This is nothing but denial of level playing ground to BSNL, vis-à-vis the private operators. At a time when BSNL is in the ICU, it should not be made the 'guinea pig' for testing the technology of the Indian vendors. **Hence, this meeting of the AUAB demands that, BSNL should be provided with level playing ground in the matter of procurement of equipments. To ensure level playing ground, BSNL should be permitted to procure world class equipments from vendors who are having proven technology.**

BSNL is carved out of the DoT. At the time of the formation of BSNL, it was told by the government that, the sole purpose of creating BSNL was to ensure level playing ground to all the operators. However, after formation of BSNL, level playing ground is continuously being denied to BSNL. The latest round of denial of level playing ground to BSNL is the condition that, it should procure it's 4G equipments only from Indian vendors. Further, BSNL is being made the 'guinea pig' for testing the indigenous technology. In such circumstances, BSNL is unable to compete with the private operators on an equal footing.

It is also mentioned in the Rival Package announced on 27th July, 2022, that, BSNL acts as the 'market balancer' in the telecom market and it also plays a crucial role in expansion of telecom services in rural areas, development of indigenous technology and disaster relief. When BSNL is expected to carry out all the aforementioned tasks, how the Company can be expected to compete with the private operators and make profits? **Hence, the AUAB demands that the government should consider converting BSNL back into a department of the Government of India.**

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,



Chandeshwar Singh
Chairman, AUAB.
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Copy to: Shri K. Rajaraman, Secretary, Telecom, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110 001