

**ALL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF BSNL (AUAB)**  
ASSAM TELECOM CIRCLE, GUWAHATI, ASSAM

No- AUAB/BSNL/Assam/2021-22/02

Dated : The 1st of September, 2021 at Guwahati

To,

1. Shri Rajesh Verma Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
2. Shri Jyotirmay Singh Mahato Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
3. Shri Chandra Sekhar Bellana Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
4. Shri Ramesh Bidhuri Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
5. Shri Dileshwar Kamait Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
6. Dr. Sanghamitra Maurya Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
7. Shri Ajay Nishad Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
8. Shri Ram Shiromani Verma Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
9. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
10. Shri Chunni Lal Sahu Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
11. Smt. Geeta Kora Ji, Hon'ble Member of Lok Sabha
12. Shri T. K. S. Elangovan Ji, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha
13. Shri Narayana Koragappa Ji, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha
14. Shri Jaiprakash Nishad Ji, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha
15. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad Ji, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha
16. Dr. Banda Prakash Ji, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha
17. Smt. Chhaya Verma Ji, Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha

**Subject: Humble Appeal for your kind support in the revival of BSNL and submission of our views regarding the same.**

*Respected Sir/Madam,*

We the All Unions & Associations of BSNL (AUAB) comprising of the major associations and unions of BSNL viz All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association (AIGETOA), Sanchar Nigam Executives Association (SNEA), All India BSNL Executives Association (AIBSNLEA), BSNL Employees Union (BSNLEU) and National Federation of Telecom Employees (NFTE) take this opportunity to welcome you on your visit to Guwahati, apprise your good self about the difficulties being faced in the revival of BSNL and thereby solicit your kind support to highlight the cause of BSNL at all important forums including the Parliament.

At the foremost, we hereby affirm our firm support to all the endeavours taken by government for making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology (***Digital India movement***). We are indeed thankful to the Gol and feel deeply indebted for coming out with a detailed roadmap for revival of BSNL vide the revival package announced in Oct, 2019. It is our firm conviction that BSNL has necessary arsenals and

resources to regain its pristine glory and respectable market place in the sector. The BSNL employees have sacrificed a lot to save the organisation, when around 79000 opted the VRS route which cut the salary expenditure of the company by more than half. But, it is noticed that except the swift retrenchment of such large number of employees through VRS, all other assurance given in BSNL's Revival Package have been forgotten.

In this context, we would like to present before your good self, a status outline on the BSNL revival package V/s Present Scenario w.r.t. the following points:

- A. **VRS Vs Manpower utilization & HR restructuring**
- B. **Pan India 4G Rollout & Mobile Segment Capacity enhancement**
- C. **Land Monetization and Rent out of building to garner the requisite fund**
- D. **Debt restructuring by Sovereign Bonds and receivable of Rs 30,000 Cr from DoT**
- E. **Operations in Fixed and Mobile Telephone Segments**

Sir, as you are aware that BSNL as an organization is under ICU right now and is in dire need of oxygen in the form of unparalleled support from government to overcome various problems associated with the growth of organisation. While Government of India has been magnanimous enough to extend a revival package to BSNL but the same has taken a back seat owing to entanglement of these measures like that of Land Monetization Process in the bureaucratic machinery and denial of the lifesaving drug in the form of 4G equipment procurement to BSNL. We do welcome the idea of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and stand firmly with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi Ji to have an indigenous 4G/5G technology in place but at the same time the dire need of BSNL to have a full-fledged 4G network in place cannot be ignored. Immediate Roll Out of 4G network is very much required to compete with other Telecom Operators. **There are many issues which are crippling BSNL and we seek your kind support for resolution of these issues. A brief summary of some of the issues which needs an immediate attention to bring BSNL back to revival Path are as stated below:**

1. **Immediate Permission for Launching 4G services and directing BSNL Board to accord approval for launching 4G services through upgradation route** which can be done in minimum possible time of few months. Further a road-map needs to be devised to ensure full-fledged roll-out of 4G services by BSNL. This roadmap needs to take care of Both - BSNL requirements to roll out 4G across the nation and at the same time catering to the needs of developing an Aatmanirbhar Bharat with an indigenous technology in place for 4G/5G services. BSNL should also be permitted to explore & develop the 5G Eco System in parallel.

The present status is that 4G tender is yet to be completed. In the matter of new equipment and upgradation, there should not be any discrimination between BSNL and other private telecom service providers. The 4G upgradation tender of BSNL for upgradation of 49,300 BTS to 4G in March last year was cancelled by the Central Govt in as it was decided to come up with fresh specifications to prevent Chinese companies from participating. BSNL already has have around 49,300 base transceiver stations which are 4G compatible and through minor upgradation, all these equipment can be converted into 4G BTS with an investment of about Rs. 1,500 crore. BSNL is already lagging four years behind the private operators, in terms of 4G and the cancellation of the tender is going to inordinately delay the company's 4G launch.

In addition to this, BSNL could have added another 15,000 BTS, by placing an Add on Order to the existing mobile tender, but Central Govt. is not allowing for the same.

In Jan 2021, BSNL again released detailed notice inviting e-tender for planning, testing, deployment and annual maintenance of its much awaited 4G network across four operational zones in addition to Delhi and Mumbai Circles for 57,000 sites on turnkey basis, and sought proof of concept for Indian companies and consortiums to participate in its upcoming 4G tender, in order to test their network quality in keeping with the Govt of India's "Atma Nirbhar" vision. In July this year, letter of Intent was also issued by BSNL to five eligible bidders, viz L&T, Tech Mahindra, TCS and HFCL to use Indian Core Technology while deploying next generation networks. But, barring TCS, which have tied up with C-DoT and Tejas Networks, other consortiums have backed out from trial following technical failures.

To sum it up, BSNL which is already lagging 4 to 5 years behind other private competitors in launch of 4G has been turned into a mega 4G laboratory to test the indigenous equipment, while there is no such restrictions for private players.

Your kind support is solicited for expediting and removing the bottlenecks being faced by BSNL in launch of much delayed 4G technology.

2. **Allowing BSNL for 5G testing to capture market sentiments:** Although 4G launch has been delayed inordinately, but same should not be repeated in case of 5G. BSNL should also be allowed by the government for testing of 5G to capture the market sentiments and keep it relevant in the sector as other operators have been allowed for the same.
3. **Smoothing of Process for Land Monetisation which will make BSNL debt free.** There are many procedural as well as legal roadblocks in the Land Monetisation Process which can be sorted out only through intervention at the highest level and we request your good self to bestow your kindness in ensuring the same at the earliest.

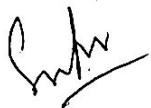
4. **DoT may be directed to release the pending payments of BSNL** which will not only help BSNL in improving its cash flow but also will infuse a new lease of life into deteriorating operation and maintenance works which are suffering a lot due to cash crunch in BSNL. Further availability of sufficient funds will enable BSNL to perform its social and national responsibilities in more efficient manner. We also request your kind support in issuing of necessary directions to other ministries and departments to follow the instructions of using BSNL services mandatorily as per the decision taken earlier.
  
5. **Proper Manpower utilization & HR restructuring with thrust on motivation to the vast human capital of BSNL is the need of the hour.** BSNL human capital consists of around 25000 Professionally qualified executives which includes engineers from leading institutes of India, Account & Finance Professionals. (CA, ICWA, MBA Finance etc). Till date BSNL has failed to utilise the expertise and potential of this qualified man power and it is a sad fact indeed that despite availability of such vast qualified manpower, BSNL failed to create a succession plan for middle and higher management and is trying to go for a work around solution by deploying senior management through deputation route. We request your good self to direct BSNL management to ensure its metamorphosis from a legacy organisation to a meritocratic organisation with full thrust on developing its own succession plan. Further, settlement of long pending HR issues of Promotion, Pay and Pension should be given its due attention to motivate employees to perform better.
  
6. **Implementation of 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC and approval of standard Pay Scale E2-E3 for JAO/JTO and AO/SDE equivalent Cadre in BSNL:** BSNL is providing telecom services to the people across the length and breadth of the country irrespective of its financial viability. While it comes to the rural telephony or natural calamity or government projects for the people of the nation, BSNL always stood first. The compensation to the loss incurred by BSNL on account of providing the telecom facilities in far flanged rural and hilly terrains have not been provided by the Dept of Telecom since last many years. Earlier non allocation of 4G bandwidth and thereafter some directions and restriction of the DoT/Government in procurement of the 4G equipments has lead to the non roll out the service in pan India by BSNL, while its competitors have already started the service in 2016. These are some reasons of the negative balance sheet for the BSNL. These measures are not in the control of employees but are policy decisions. Hence employees should not be subjected to suffer and so the affordability clause of the 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC should be waived off in case of BSNL and 3<sup>rd</sup> PRC, which is due since 01.01.2017 should be implemented in BSNL immediately.

Similarly, one of our long pending residual of 2<sup>nd</sup> PRC is the approval of standard scale of E2-E3 for JTO/JAO and SDE/AO equivalent grade in BSNL is pending in the DoT. The BSNL Board has already approved the scale and sent for the approval of the scale to the administrative ministry DoT. We seek your kind attention in this regard as the younger generation is suffering with acute loss due to the non approval of the scale.

We are of the firm view that if timely necessary action is taken by the Govt on all the above aspects this prestigious Telecom Company of Government of India can turn to a profitable business unit and it will reach to the apex of telecom sector in near future thereby securing the future & interests of entire employees of BSNL and nation's pride as a Telecom PSU.

We as the major associations and unions of BSNL, solicit your kind support in highlighting the above issues at all important fora including Parliament and prodding the government and authorities concerned for the betterment of BSNL and the well-being of the nation.

Thanking You.



(Satyajyoti Nath)

Circle Secretary  
AIGETOA – Assam



(Barun Baruah)

Circle Secretary  
SNEA – Assam



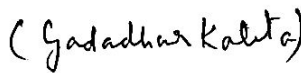
(Subhrendu Bhattacharjee)

Circle Secretary  
AIBSNLEA - Assam



( Bijoy Deka )

Circle Secretary  
BSNLEU – Assam



Circle Secretary  
NFTE – Assam