

विभाग हित

ग हित अधिकारी हित

All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Central Headquarter, New Delhi

(A Recognised Association of BSNL Executives)

(Affiliated to BMS)



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GS / AIGETOA / 2024-25 / 16

Dated 16.05.2024

To,
Shri P K Purwar Ji,
Chairman and Managing Director,
BSNL Board,
Bharat Sanchar Bhavan,
New Delhi 110001.

Ref: BSNLCO-Admin/77/2/2024-Admn dated 07.05.2024.

Subject: Need for increasing the limit for reimbursement of cost of Mobile handsets further to enable all executives to buy at least optimum configuration handsets supporting Band 28 i.e. in the 700 MHz band which is being used majorly by BSNL for its Swadeshi 4G network.

Respected Sir,

Please refer to the BSNL CO Admin Cell Letter under reference vide which the revised Policy for Reimbursement of GSM mobile handset to JTO/JAO/Equivalent and above level officers was notified. First of all, we extend our thanks to management that as assured to us by Hon'ble Director HR in the reconciliation meeting and subsequently in the agenda meeting with AIGETOA, management finally has acknowledged and took cognizance of the need for revision in reimbursement cost for procurement of mobile handset.

However, in this regard, we wish to submit that the revised cost as proposed by management is also not sufficient to cater to the cost of mobile handset which is needed by the BSNL Executives to fulfil the organizational needs of BSNL especially in view of the anticipated roll out of BSNL 4G Services on the home grown technology in the near future.

The Roll out of 4G services in BSNL is majority on 700 MHZ spectrum band in most of the circles. It is learnt that ecosystem of Mobile Handsets is not fully developed in the said band as majority of the Mobile Handset Manufacturers have not developed Handsets in the said spectrum band. Some handsets by mobile manufacturers are available in the market costing around at a minimum of Rs 8000/- with a bare minimum configuration whereas the amount fixed for reimbursement for mobile handsets for JTO is Rs 5000 and SDE is Rs 6000. On these costs no mobile handset is available in market in the said spectrum which will be used primarily by BSNL for its 4G roll out. All executives are using 4G services in their Service mobile connection.

Following are the intrinsic benefits of having a revised handset policy with B-28 support handsets:

- 1] As part of the government supported projects BSNL is launching the 4G services in Band-28 in rural, far flung and difficult areas in the country.
 - It will be timely and prudent that BSNL executives are equipped with proper mobile handset which will help them not only to complete their day to day office work but also enable them to assist customers, measure QoS, coverage.
- 2] BSNL having 4G rollout in Band 28 will be a long term advantage as the band is having excellent penetration and coverage. At this stage appropriate feedback will be required for improvements in the indigenous 4G stack.
- 3] The executives associated with Mobile related work will also require a day to interface with vendors and service providers and various government agencies also. Therefore, providing handset equipped with 700 MHz band support will be good investment which will be fruitful for the executives as well as the company.
- 4] By increasing the reimbursement limit at least by Rs 8000 at each level of existing policy rates should be accepted for immediate implementation. By this way BSNL management can make it mandatory for all executives to purchase the handsets supporting B28 operations.
- 5] The clause 4 of the letter dated 07.05.2024 seems to be discriminatory. It mentions that the officers on look after basis or local officiating basis shall be allowed reimbursement of the cost of Mobile Handset at their substantive post. There are many officers who been promoted and working on LA basis for the last 4 to 5 years and have been vested with all administrative and financial powers of the post. They are eligible to get promoted on regular basis but still not being promoted for the reasons best known to department. Surprisingly, these officers are giving their best even on LA basis but being deprived of the reimbursement benefits on the post at LA basis is gross injustice. We feel that the officers on LA basis should also be entitled/allowed to reimburse the cost of Mobile handsets at par with officers working on regular/adhoc basis.

With Regards,

Sd/-[Ravi Shil Verma] General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Dr. Kalyan Sagar Nippani Ji, Director (HR) for kind information & n/a pls.