



Bharatiya Doorsanchar Manch

(भारतीय दूरसंचार मंच)

(AIGETOA, BTEU, BDPS, AIBSNLOBCEWA, STEWA, FNTOBFA, BTU)

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BDM/2025-26/40

Dated 13.03.2026

To,
Shri A Robert J Ravi,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,
Janpath, New Delhi - 110001.

Subject: Ambiguous and incorrect information furnished by BSNL with respect to the Parliamentary Question - An intentional act of the Admin cell of BSNL Corporate Office to mislead the Hon'ble Parliament. Regarding.

Reference: Parliamentary Question no. 3160 by Hon'ble MP Shri Anurag Thakur Ji with respect to withdrawal of Sports Facility in BSNL.

Respected Sir,

This is with reference to the reply submitted by BSNL with respect to the Parliamentary Question under reference. We are in receipt of the reply submitted to the above question **(Copy Attached herewith)**. We are astonished to note the reply submitted by the Admin Section of BSNL CO which is in complete contravention of the actual facts. **It appears that the audacity of certain officers in BSNL has reached such a level that they are not afraid of putting the wrong facts before the highest pillar of democracy in India i.e. Our Hon'ble Parliament.** We sincerely feel that the concerned head of the unit must be made aware that providing misleading information to Parliament tantamount to the Breach of Privilege and Contempt of House which is a punishable offence under Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS).

With regard to the reply submitted, we wish to submit the following facts for the kind information of your good self and intervention for directing the admin section for immediate necessary corrective action:

1] Misleading and Incomplete Reply with respect to Point (c)

In response to point (c) of the Parliamentary Question, admin cell of BSNL CO has stated that representations have been received from unions/associations for restoration of sports activities in BSNL while totally ignoring the question which asks for specific details with respect to representations/appeals received from the athletes, coaches or associations including those from BSNL national teams of various sports.

This statement is factually incorrect, incomplete and misleading as it simply states that representations have been received from unions and associations and completely suppresses the facts with respect to the representations/appeals received from the athletes, coaches or associations including those from BSNL national teams of various sports.

The reality is that BSNL sportspersons, sports associations, and employee unions/associations have repeatedly raised the issue and requested restoration of sports activities as well as permission for participation in various national and international sporting events as evident from the few cases which came to our knowledge as detailed hereinafter. **Admin cell of BSNL CO has completely suppressed this information in the reply to the Parliamentary Question.**

Further, several instances clearly establish that even when no financial implication on

BSNL is involved, permissions are being routinely denied, which contradicts the justification of "austerity measures" cited by management in Response to the point a and b of the Parliamentary Question.

Some illustrative cases are as follows:

1. BCCI Match Referees from BSNL:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regularly requests the services of three match referees from BSNL for domestic tournaments. However, BSNL Management has repeatedly denied permission to these referees despite multiple requests.

It is pertinent to note that granting such permission involves no financial expenditure from BSNL, as the entire expenditure is borne by the tournament organizers.

2. Cooch Behar Trophy - MP Under-19 Team:

Recently, Madhya Pradesh won the prestigious BCCI Cooch Behar Trophy (Under-19). The Head Coach of the MP team, Shri Sunil Dholpure, is a BSNL employee, yet BSNL management did not grant the required permission despite formal requests from the Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association.

MPCA officially requested BSNL to sanction sports leave so that he could coach the team during the tournament period. Again, no financial burden was involved on BSNL in granting such permission.

3. All India Public Sector Cricket Tournament:

Invitations are regularly issued to both BSNL and MTNL for participation in the All-India Public Sector Cricket Tournament.

However, while MTNL is granted permission to participate, BSNL players are denied permission. This raises a serious question on how the so-called "expenditure control" justification is being selectively applied.

4. IPL Team - Gujarat Titans:

A BSNL employee, is serving as Assistant Coach of IPL team Gujarat Titans. **However, BSNL management did not grant the required permission for him to participate in the tournament. This again involved no financial implication for BSNL.**

5. International Shooting Competition:

Shri Md. Farak Sheer Alam, a BSNL employee, was selected as an official member representing India in an international shooting competition. **Even in this case, the request for permission was denied despite the fact that no TA/DA or financial support was sought from BSNL.**

6. International Carrom Tournament:

Shri M A Hakim, an International Carrom player **and Bronze Medal winner, is another example who was denied permission by PGM (Admin).**

7. Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) Club Participation:

The annual club fee for participation in DDCA tournaments is approximately ₹5 lakh for private organizations, whereas for a government organization like BSNL it is only about ₹6000 per year. BSNL players themselves offered to collect and deposit the fee from their personal contributions,

yet the management still did not grant permission for participation.

- 2] With respect to the reasons for stopping the Sports facility in BSNL at point (a) and (b), BSNL has replied the reasons as austerity measures. Further in response to point (d), BSNL has stated that sports will be resumed once financial position improves.**

With respect to above, we wish to state that the sports facility of BSNL continued even when BSNL was in a much worse financial condition than today where even timely disbursement of Salary was getting difficult. Today financial condition of BSNL has improved to a greater extent and hence stopping the policy with reasons as austerity measure is far from reality and stating that it will be resumed when financial position improves is again a false premise taken by Admin Cell of BSNL CO given the fact that the financial position is already improved from the position in which BSNL was placed few years before when sports facilities were in continuance. Hence the information provided by the BSNL unit headed by PGM (Admin) is again contradictory as well as misleading w.r.t point a, b and d also.

Sports Compendium in BSNL is a duly approved policy by BSNL Board and Sport Board. While putting on hold or making changes to this policy, no concurrence of Board or even Management committee has been taken. Even the meeting of the sports board was not convened. The stopping of Sports activities in BSNL is nothing but a simple act of high headedness by few officers of BSNL where they didn't even bother to inform BSNL Board/Management Committee/Sports Board about the changes to the Policy while ideally, they should have taken concurrence from Board/Management Committee before making changes or stopping the activities.

If austerity measures are the criteria, stopping sports activity and saving few bucks will not be helpful at all. **If austerity is required, all the officers of BSNL including the Board of Directors may be asked to mandatorily use BSNL IQs while on official tour. Unnecessary Foreign Travel, Unnecessary domestic travels, huge Protocols of higher officers on tour, unnecessary office expenditure etc should be stopped instead of penalizing the meritorious sports persons of BSNL.**

We request for a historical analysis of year wise expenditure on above heads vis-à-vis the expenditure on Sports activities. **To the best of our belief, it will be very clear from this analysis that if austerity was the reason for stopping the sports activities, before initiating any such action, a full stop should have been made to the expenditure as mentioned in the preceding paragraph and all such similar expenditures.**

As a responsible association of BSNL, we consider ourselves dutybound to inform your good self that such an irresponsible act of misguiding the highest authorities by Admin Cell of BSNL CO headed by PGM (Admin) is not in the best interest of BSNL. Hence, we request for your kind intervention in directing the concerned cell for an immediate corrective action as well as for fixing up the responsibility for this intentional act of mis-informing the higher authorities with respect the reply of the parliamentary question under reference.

Thanking you.



(Chairman)
General Secretary, AIGETOA
8373967633



(Convener)
General Secretary BTEU BSNL
9415000770

Copy to:

1. **Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar Ji, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communication,** Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi for kind information.
2. **Shri Amit Agrawal Ji, Secretary, Department of Telecom,** Sanchar Bhavan, New Delhi for kind information.
3. **Shri Surendra Kumar Pandey, General Secretary, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS),** Dattopant Thengadi Bhawan, New Delhi for kind information.
4. **Shri Ashok Kumar Ji, All India Secretary & Telecom Prabhari BMS,** Dattopant Thengadi Bhawan, New Delhi for kind information.
5. **Shri Kalyan Sagar Nippani Ji, Director (HR), BSNL Board,** BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi for kind information.
6. **All other Directors of BSNL Board for kind information please.**
7. **Shri Rajeev Kumar Kaushik Ji,** PGM (SR), BSNL CO New Delhi for kind information and necessary action.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3160
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH MARCH, 2026**

SPORTS ACTIVITIES IN BSNL

3160. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL has taken a decision to suspend its sports activities including support for disciplines such as cricket, athletics, badminton, volleyball and kabaddi which may affect dedicated athletes employed by the organisation who have proudly represented India at national and international levels;
- (b) if so, the rationale for this step;
- (c) the details of any representations or appeals received from concerned athletes, coaches, or associations including those from BSNL's national teams of various sports;
- (d) whether the Government intends to review this decision, encourage discussions with stakeholders and sustain support for sports talent in BSNL; and
- (e) if not, the supportive alternatives being explored to protect the welfare of these athletes and strengthen the national sports framework?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) & (b) BSNL has temporarily suspended its sports activities purely as an austerity measure in view of the prevailing financial constraints.
- (c) BSNL had received representations from Unions/Associations for restoration of sports activities in BSNL.
- (d) & (e) The restoration of sports activities would be reviewed after improvement in financial condition of BSNL.

**भारत सरकार
संचार मंत्रालय
दूरसंचार विभाग**

**लोक सभा
अतारांकित प्रश्न सं. 3160
उत्तर देने की तारीख 11 मार्च, 2026**

बीएसएनएल में खेल कार्यक्रमलाप

3160. श्री अनुराग सिंह ठाकुर:

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बीएसएनएल ने क्रिकेट, एथलेटिक्स, बैडमिंटन, वॉलीबॉल और कबड्डी जैसे खेलों सहित अपने खेल कार्यक्रमलापों को निलंबित करने का निर्णय लिया है, जिससे संगठन में कार्यरत उन समर्पित एथलीटों पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है जिन्होंने गर्व के साथ राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उक्त कदम का औचित्य क्या है;

(ग) बीएसएनएल की विभिन्न खेलों की राष्ट्रीय टीमों के सदस्य सहित संबंधित एथलीटों, प्रशिक्षकों या संघों से प्राप्त किसी भी अभ्यावेदन या अपील का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या सरकार उक्त निर्णय की समीक्षा करने, हितधारकों के साथ चर्चा को बढ़ावा देने और बीएसएनएल में खेल प्रतिभाओं के लिए समर्थन जारी रखने का इरादा रखती है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इन खिलाड़ियों के कल्याण की रक्षा करने और राष्ट्रीय खेल ढांचे को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए किन सहायक विकल्पों पर विचार किया जा रहा है?

उत्तर

संचार एवं ग्रामीण विकास राज्य मंत्री

(डॉ. पेम्मासानी चंद्र शेखर)

(क) और (ख) मौजूदा वित्तीय बाधाओं को देखते हुए, बीएसएनएल ने पुर्णतः मितव्ययिता उपाय के रूप में अपनी खेल गतिविधियों को अस्थायी रूप से निलंबित कर दिया है।

(ग) बीएसएनएल को यूनियनों/संघों से बीएसएनएल में खेल गतिविधियों को पुनः शुरू करने के लिए अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए थे।

(घ) और (ङ) बीएसएनएल की वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार के बाद खेल गतिविधियों को पुनः शुरू करने की समीक्षा की जाएगी।