



राष्ट्र हित

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All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Central Headquarter, New Delhi
(The Recognised Association of BSNL)

(Affiliated to BMS)



Regn. no. HR/019/2018/02138

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GS / AIGETOA / 2026-27 / 18

Dated: 14.05.2026

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

Subject: Strategic Proposal for Simultaneous Underground OFC Deployment along with Extraction of Buried Copper Cables through a Unified Tendering - Regarding.

Respected Sir,

BSNL Corporate Office has been consistently emphasizing the extraction and monetization of spare and unutilized buried copper cables through the tendering process. The initiative is appreciable and commendable as it not only enables monetization of non-performing legacy assets, but also helps in substantially reducing the recurring expenditure presently incurred on maintenance of the obsolete copper network.

In continuation of the above initiative, this association would like to place a strategic proposal for kind consideration, which can transform the present copper extraction exercise into a long-term infrastructure strengthening opportunity for BSNL.

At present, a major portion of BSNL's FTTH last-mile connectivity is operating over overhead OFC infrastructure. While overhead OFC deployment has undoubtedly enabled rapid expansion of FTTH services, the network remains continuously vulnerable to frequent disruptions caused by road widening works, smart city projects, accidental cuts, pole damages, storms, sagging, shifting requirements and local civic activities. These repeated damages not only increase maintenance expenditure and restoration workload, but also adversely impact customer experience and service reliability.

Similarly, many Enterprise Business (EB) leased circuits and important customer connections are also presently operating over overhead OFC routes, leading to frequent interruptions and avoidable dissatisfaction among high-value enterprise customers. Further, in several areas, the existing underground OFC infrastructure has itself become aged, lossy and unreliable, thereby affecting transmission quality and network performance.

In view of the above operational realities, it is proposed that while floating tenders for extraction of buried/spare copper cables, provision may simultaneously be incorporated in the same tender for laying underground OFC along the existing cable routes, wherever technically and economically feasible. Since the contractor engaged for copper extraction would already be accessing the underground cable routes, ducts and trenches, simultaneous OFC laying can be undertaken with minimal additional civil effort and substantially lower execution cost.

The proposal may further be utilized strategically for strengthening BSNL's transmission resilience by covering missing OFC links between adjacent SDCAs, exchanges and important network

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locations. This can significantly improve redundancy, alternate routing capability and overall network reliability across the access and transmission network.

The proposed integrated model can provide multiple long-term strategic advantages to BSNL including:

1. Optimum reutilization of existing underground cable corridors and routes for modern OFC deployment.
2. Significant reduction in trenching, excavation and road restoration expenditure through simultaneous execution of both activities.
3. Gradual replacement of old, lossy and maintenance-prone OFC segments with modern high-capacity underground fibre infrastructure.
4. Reduction in dependency on overhead OFC networks, thereby minimizing recurring cable damages and service interruptions.
5. Improvement in FTTH service stability, uptime and customer experience.
6. Enhancement in reliability and uptime of Enterprise Business leased circuits and mission-critical connectivity.
7. Reduction in operational workload and repeated fault restoration activities for field units.
8. Better utilization of already invested FTTH and transmission infrastructure.
9. Creation of a robust, future-ready and maintenance-efficient underground fibre ecosystem for long-term business sustainability.
10. Faster execution, improved coordination and enhanced administrative efficiency through a unified tendering mechanism.

Sir, BSNL today possesses one of the largest telecom access infrastructures in the country. However, the future competitiveness of the organization will increasingly depend upon the reliability, resilience and quality of its fibre network. The present copper extraction initiative provides an excellent opportunity not merely for disposal of obsolete assets, but also for simultaneously rebuilding and strengthening BSNL's underground fibre backbone in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

In view of the above, it is earnestly requested that suitable policy guidelines may kindly be issued to all Circles and Business Areas for incorporating underground OFC laying provisions in tenders floated for extraction of spare/unutilized buried copper cables, wherever feasible. A pilot implementation may also be considered in selected high-potential areas for assessing operational and financial benefits before wider rollout.

We sincerely believe that adoption of this integrated approach shall significantly strengthen BSNL's FTTH and Enterprise network infrastructure, improve customer satisfaction, reduce recurring maintenance expenditure and contribute meaningfully towards creation of a robust national fibre network for the future.



(Ravi Shil Verma)
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. **Shri Amit Agrawal Ji, Secretary DoT**, Sanchar Bhawan, Ashoka Road New for kind information.
2. **Shri Vivek Banzal Ji**, Director (CFA), BSNL Board, New Delhi for kind information and consideration.