



P. Abhimanyu
General Secretary

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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BSNLEU/604 (DEV)

07.04.2021

To,

Shri P.K. Purwar
CMD BSNL,
Bharat Sanchar Bhawan,
H.C. Mathur Lane, Janpath,
New Delhi – 110 001

Sir,

Sub: - **Demanding to stop operationalising BSNL Tower Corporation Limited - req.**

We wish to bring the following to your kind notice on the subject mentioned above.

The BSNL Management is well aware of the fact that, the entire Unions and Associations of BSNL have opposed formation of BSNL's Subsidiary Tower Company. The entire Executives and Non-Executives of BSNL went on strike on 15.12.2016, opposing formation of the Subsidiary Tower Company. After decision was taken by the Union Cabinet on 12.09.2017, for the formation of BSNL's Subsidiary Tower Company, the unions and associations have organised numerous strikes, Marches to the Sanchar Bhawan, Marches to the Raj Bhawans and other campaigns, demanding withdrawal of the decision.

The considered opinion of the Unions and Associations of BSNL is that, the decision of the government to form BSNL's Subsidiary Tower Company and to hive off BSNL's towers to it, is fraught with the danger of privatisation. This is because, decision is already there for inducting a strategic partner into the Tower Company. Induction of a strategic partner will certainly lead to the taking over of BSNL's Subsidiary Tower Company, by the private. Undoubtedly, this will be a body blow for BSNL. It is for this reason that, the unions and associations opposed formation of a Subsidiary Tower Company.

Due to the stiff opposition of the employees, the functioning of the BSNL Tower Company Limited was kept at a low profile for some time, by the BSNL Management and the government. However, of late, it is observed that, the BSNL Management is gradually stepping up the activities of the BTCL. Name Boards of the BTCL have started appearing in various parts of the country.

The Management is telling that, the BTCL is being operated to carry out the non-telecom activities, on behalf of BSNL, with the view to reduce the licence fee liability of the Company. Superficially viewing, this argument of the BSNL Management may appear to be reasonable. However, in the wake of the recent announcement made by the government, to monetise BSNL's towers and fibres, the arguments of BSNL have proved to be deceptive.

The government has made it's intention clear for mopping-up Rs.40,000 crore, by way of monetising the towers and optic fibre of BSNL and MTNL, in the current financial year itself. (Times of India dated March 12, 2021) For monetising BSNL's towers, the option left open before the government, is the induction of a strategic partner into the BTCL. This is nothing but a clear-cut agenda of privatising BSNL's tower assets. Thereafter, BSNL will be converted into a scrap.

The decisions of the Government to start IPO in the strategically important LIC and to sell out the highly profit making BPCL, prove beyond doubt that, the government will not hesitate to privatise BSNL's tower assets. In view of this, we urge upon the Management to stop operationalising the BTCL. We also urge upon the Management to invite the unions and associations to discuss this issue.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

[P. Abhimanyu]
General Secretary

Copy to: - 1) Shri Arvind Vadnerkar, Director (HR), Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001
2) Shri Vivek Banzal, Director (CFA), Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi – 110001