

***Resolution on calling for campaign, culminating into strike, to ensure the early launching of BSNL's 4G service and its revival.***

This Central Executive Committee meeting of BSNLEU, held online on 10th & 11th September, 2020, expresses its deep anguish over the unbearable delay being caused in the launching of BSNL's 4G service. BSNL is already lagging 4 years behind the private operators, so far 4G technology is concerned. BSNL's revival is unimaginable without the launching of its 4G service. Under these circumstances, the developments taking place in connection with the launching of BSNL's 4G service is very disturbing.

BSNL's 49,300 4G compatible BTSs could have been converted into 4G BTSs by the BSNL Management, by spending around Rs.1,500 crores. Further, BSNL could have also procured 15,000 more BTSs, through the existing mobile tender, by placing Add on Order. With these 64,300 BTSs, BSNL Management could have launched its 4G service, even without making fresh procurement of equipments. It is an undeniable fact that the BSNL Management had pathetically failed in carrying out this task.

In addition to this, the tender floated by BSNL to procure 4G equipments, at the cost of Rs.9,300 crore has been cancelled, as per the directive of the government. It is laughable that, BSNL has been accused by the Commerce Ministry, that the Company has floated tender to procure 4G equipments from multinational vendors, without giving any opportunity to the domestic vendors. Even at the time of the cancellation of the tender, neither the Department of Commerce, nor the DoT were able to tell, which domestic vendor is manufacturing 4G equipments with proven technology.

Even after 3 months after cancellation of BSNL's 4G tender, the government is unable to tell, from which domestic manufacturer BSNL could procure 4G equipments. Media reports say that the ITI has tied up with Tech Mahindra to produce and supply 4G equipments to BSNL. However, it is a fact that, neither ITI nor Tech Mahindra is presently possessing the capability of manufacturing and supplying 4G equipments to BSNL.

It is very clear from the foregoing, that the government has compelled BSNL to cancel its 4G tender with a hidden agenda. The present condition of BSNL is very disturbing. It can neither procure 4G equipments from local vendors nor is it in a position to procure equipments from any international vendor. This stalemate is going to seriously delay BSNL's launching of 4G service, which in turn will severely hamper its revival.

BSNLEU strongly believes that a conspiracy has been hatched to deny 4G equipments to BSNL and thereby to sabotage its revival. In the month of April, 2020, both Airtel and Vodafone Idea have lost 47 lakh customers each. Whereas, in the same month, BSNL has added 2 lakh new customers. This clearly tells who is the real challenger to Reliance Jio. BSNLEU is of the firm view that, the cancellation of BSNL's 4G tender is only to clip its wings, so that the telecom PSU does not offer stiff competition to Reliance Jio. This can be construed as a part of the government's overall strategy of aiding Reliance Jio to monopolise the telecom sector.

What is happening in BSNL is also in accordance with the policy of the government to wipe out the public sector. We should not fail to note the attacks being launched by the Narendra Modi government on the PSUs belonging to the Coal, Petroleum, Banking, Insurance sectors, as well as on the Indian Railways and Defence Ordnance Factories. Hence, this meeting of the Central Executive Committee of BSNLEU calls on the unions and associations of BSNL to create compulsions on the government, for the removal of the road-blocks in BSNL's launching its 4G service.

Hence, this CEC meeting calls upon the Central Headquarters of BSNLEU to take immediate steps to unite all the unions and associations for organising a very powerful campaign programme among the employees and among the general public, in the months of September and October, which should culminate in a strike action thereafter. This meeting directs the All India, circle and district unions to take all out efforts to implement this decision.