

FORUM OF BSNL UNIONS / ASSOCIATIONS

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Press Release

22nd April, 2015

BSNL Employees Two Days Strike Complete

The Two Days Strike on 21-22 April 2015 by BSNL Employees demanding immediate action by the government for the Revival of BSNL was fully participated all over India. More than 95% employees and officers participated in the strike. In circles like Kerala, T.Nadu, Karnataka, A.P., W.Bengal, Assam, Punjab, Bihar, UP etc. the strike was full with almost all offices and exchanges closed including customer service centres. In other circles also, the situation was not much different. The 50,000 plus casual and contract labour engaged in BSNL also went on strike in support of the demands including regularisation, resulting in complete stoppage of maintenance work.

The strike call was given by the Forum of BSNL Unions/Associations, which is the umbrella organisation of the BSNL employees and the BSNL Casual and Contract Workers Federation. Though the strike notice was served on the BSNL Management and the Department of Telecom more than one month earlier, no discussion was held with the unions by the DOT or the Minister Communications, despite direction from the Chief Labour Commissioner. The meeting held by the BSNL Management in the last moment failed since most of the items to be settled were in the domain of DOT/Government.

The employees are demanding that the government honour the financial commitments assured at the time of corporatisation for the loss of providing rural and village connections, refund of Rs. 6,700 crores due from government for surrender of spectrum and USOF allotted Rs. 1,250 crores which is with the government for the last 2-3 years and BSNL service to be made mandatory for central/state government offices etc. BSNL is unable to purchase equipment like mobile lines, broadband modem, cables etc. which are most important for providing connections and maintenance, due to the fact that all the surplus amount of Rs. 40,000 crore with BSNL was taken away by the government on one count or another and whatever was due to BSNL was not paid.

While the Communications Minister declared that he will not allow BSNL to die, no action has been taken to support this fully government owned company.

BSNL employees have been on a Save BSNL Campaign for the last six months and a Memorandum signed by more than 35 lakh people demanding revival of BSNL was submitted to the Prime Minister. But no action from the government so far. It is under these circumstances that the employees went on a Two days Strike.

The Forum of BSNL Unions demand the Government to immediately discuss the issues with the unions/associations failing which the workers will be compelled to continue their struggle.

The Forum congratulates the BSNL employees and contract workers who have made the strike a complete success.

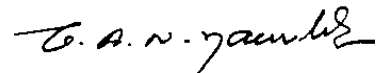
The 2.5 lakh employees of BSNL, including executives, started their Two Days Strike from 21st April 2015 demanding the government to take immediate action to revive BSNL, improve its financial viability and for a better service to the people. The twenty points demands of the strike are mainly intended for the improvement of the BSNL, which was having a decline in the last few years.

The strike call has been given by the Forum of BSNL Unions/Associations, which is the umbrella organisation of BSNL employees. Though the notice was given four months back and the strike deferred twice due to various reasons, neither the Secretary, DOT nor the Communications Minister could find time to meeting the Forum and sort out the issues. While the Communications Minister, now and then issues statements supporting BSNL, no action is taken for the same, making the assurances hollow.

The main demands of the strike are, immediate procurement of equipments like mobile lines, broad band modem, cables, drop wire, telephone instruments etc. which are essential for development, expansion and for better maintenance; refund of the charges for the surrendered spectrum coming to Rs. 6,700 crore, payment of Rs.1250 crore to BSNL which is already allotted to BSNL in lieu of ADC, liberal subsidy from the USOF for the loss-making connections provided by BSNL in the lakhs of villages as per the universal service policy of the government etc. With a view to favour and support the private companies, BSNL is being ignored and all support to it withdrawn. The government should implement it assurances to the BSNL, like payment of ADC, Refund of licence fee, liberal subsidy from USO Fund etc.

New recruitment is required considering the fact that more than 1,50,000 employees have retired during the last 15 years, with only 30,000 new recruitment. Fresh recruitment is urgently required. However, the BSNL Management has already taken a decision to make 70,000 workers as supernumerary, with the intention of retrenching them through VRS. This will seriously affect the services.

The strike will continue on 22nd April 2015 also.



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