

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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BSNLEU/102 (Circular No.03)

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OBSERVE BSNLEU DAY ON 22ND MARCH, 2009

Dear Comrade,

The 8th anniversary of the formation day of BSNL Employees Union falls on 22nd March 2009. BSNLEU was formed in the Telecom Convention held at Visakhapatnam on 21-22 March 2001, attended by thousands of Telecom workers all over the country. The following eight unions merged to form the new union: All India Telecom Employees Union Class III (Namboodiri), All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union Class III, All India P&T Industrial Workers Union, All India Telecom Civil Wing Employees Union Group 'C' & 'D', Indian Telecom Employees Union LS & Group D, All India Telecom Administrative Offices Employees Union, All India Telecom Employees Union Line Staff & Group D and All India Telegraph Traffic Employees Union Group D. Veteran P&T union leaders Coms. Sisir Bhattacharjee and Moni Bose were elected as Patrons. Coms. J.N.Mishra and V.A.N.Namboodiri were elected as the founder President and General Secretary respectively, who still continue in those posts.

Eight years of BSNLEU will be completed on 22nd March 2009. These eight years have been full of hectic activities, struggles and sustained efforts to protect and advance the interest of workers. We were opposed to the conversion of telecom services from a Central Government Department to a Public Sector Unit, well knowing that this is the first step to privatisation. But the then recognised Federations agreed for the same and BSNL was born. Being a minority union at that time, despite our two valiant strikes, we could not stop corporatisation.

Once BSNL was formed, we have been continuously fighting to ensure that BSNL is financially viable and is strengthened to meet the fiery competition from private telecom companies. The glorious strike of 11th July 2007, participated by the entire executive and non-executive employees compelled the Government and management to ensure sufficient mobile lines to provide to the people. Under the leadership of the Joint Forum of BSNL Employees Unions and Associations of Non-executives and Executives, many struggles were organised to safeguard the interests of BSNL and its workers. BSNLEU was always in the frontline of these struggles.

BSNL Employees Union is the recognised Union of Non- Executives in BSNL since December 2004 after winning in the II Membership Verification held under secret ballot in December 2004. In the third and fourth Verifications also it won with big margins and continues to be the only recognised union. The success has been due to the pro-worker policy and sustained struggles for the advancement of the workers. The continued support of the workers puts more responsibility on the organisation.

The anti-worker, neo-liberal policies of the government have made life miserable for the poor sections. The workers' rights are being attacked. Privatisation of government assets has become one of the main agenda of the government. Anti-worker acts are passed one after another. BSNL Employees Union has participated in all the struggles and agitations organised by the Sponsoring Committee of Trade Unions, Platform of Mass Organisations, CPSTU etc. against the anti-people policies of the Government.

BSNLEU opposed the decision of the government for IPO. The Minister was compelled to announce that without consulting the unions, IPO will not be introduced. BSNLEU could stop VRS/CRS planned by the management and agreed by NFTE-FNTO in 2004, when NFTE was the recognised union.

A large number of issues were got settled by BSNLEU since it got recognition. We published one hundred and one of them in a booklet which you might have already read. There are many issues in the pipeline which have to be sorted out at the earliest. We have to fulfil settlement of the 30 points charter presented to the workers at the time of this membership Verification.

The Union has to be further strengthened. We got a membership of more than 1,35,000. But that is not sufficient. Our victory in this verification and recognition should be maximum utilised for improving our membership. Start enrolling the membership now itself which can be given in July for deduction of subscription. In the meantime, subscription can be collected directly till July 2009.

Along with the membership it is also necessary that our trade union consciousness is developed. Working class ideology has to be inculcated. Democratic functioning has to be ensured. Conscious effort is required in these respects. Trade Union classes have to be organised at CHQ and circle levels.

Comrades, we have got many important tasks to be attended and completed. Wage negotiation and settlement cannot be further delayed. The issues of casual and contract workers are very important. Many such issues are to be tackled without further delay.

The Central Secretariat Meeting held on 31st January 2009 has decided that this BSNLEU Day should be celebrated in a big way being the first after the great victory in the IV Membership Verification. Flag hoisting, meetings etc. should be organised.

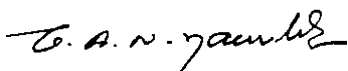
It is also decided that on the BSNLEU Day, Blood Donation Camps should be organised in all SSAs. The camps should be organised in co-ordination with Doctors, Hospitals, management etc and should be well planned. Maximum number of our comrades should volunteer for blood donation. This will help the needy poor patients. Blood group of each and every employee can be checked and recorded so that at they can be contacted when the particular blood group is required. The local hospitals, doctors and medical staff will help in this effort. Wide publicity also should be given. Reports along with photos should be sent to CHQ.

CHQ will be writing to the management to give all help in organising the Blood donations camps. Make it a big success.

While observing BSNLEU Day all these ideas and tasks have to be explained to the workers and get their support for them. All Circle/District Secretaries should send detailed report on BSNLEU Day along with photos after it is observed.

With Warm Greetings

Yours Fraternally,



[V.A.N. Namboodiri]
General Secretary

Copy to: All District / Circle Secretaries.