

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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(BSNLEU/102(CIRCULAR NO.8))

4th May 2009

TWO DAYS STRIKE ON 19 – 20 MAY 2009

Dear Comrades,

You may be aware about the developments so far on the wage negotiation and the complete negative stand taken by the BSNL management. 7 meetings of the Wage Negotiation Committee have taken place so far, but not a single issue could be settled due to the adamant attitude of the management. The staff side was compelled to walk-out from the last meeting held on 22nd April because of the negative attitude of the official side as also the fact that the official side in the committee was not empowered for actual negotiation. Even on the immediate two demands viz. Grant of interim relief and new rate of HRA, they could not specify the position of the management.

The National Steering Committee of the United Forum of BSNL Unions met immediately afterwards and discussed about the future programme of action. It was felt that immediate agitational programme is required. But taking in to consideration the fact that the country is going through the election process, it was decided to organise the strike after the elections. As such, it has been decided to organise two days strike on 19th and 20th May 2009 on the major demands with regard to wage revision. The notice has already been served on the management. The demands are:

Demands:

- **Immediate Settlement of Wage revision of Non– Executives.**
- **Fitment on par with top executives, on pay + 78.2% pay**
- **Five year periodicity.**
- **Interim relief @ 50% of pay or Rs. 3000/- whichever is more, from 01-01-2007.**
- **HRA on Govt. rates w.e.f. 01-09-2008.**
- **Annual Increment @ 5% on basic pay.**
- **Benefit of two increments on Promotion.**
- **Pensionary Benefits on par with CG Employees.**
- **Pension scheme for BSNL recruitees.**
- **50% IDA Merger for Pensioners.**
- **Allowances, perks on par with executives.**
- **Casual/Contract labour wages on par with minimum of same grade of non – executives.**

Dear Comrades,

The management is delaying the negotiation process by not accepting the genuine demands of the workers. It is also trying to divide the workforce. We have to give suitable reply through direct action. That is why the United Forum has taken the correct decision to go on **two days strike on 19th and 20th May 2009**. We have to fully prepare for the strike since there is no chance of any settlement

before that. Contact each and every worker and convince him about the necessity to participate in the strike. General Body meetings should be held at Branch levels and the issues explained. Circle/District Executive Committees, preferably extended meetings, should be held and strategies finalised to make the strike a complete success. We have to approach the workers irrespective of union affiliation. CHQ is enclosing a sample wall poster along with this letter. The same may be got printed and circulated widely. Pamphlets explaining the demands also should be issued. Reports to the press can also be issued. We should thus ensure maximum publicity.

Let us be prepared for a serious and sustained struggle.

Successful walk-out and Hunger strike on 04.05.2009

In the meanwhile, the BSNL management arbitrarily issued orders on adjustable advance in lieu of arrears on wage revision. This is far below what BSNLEU and United Forum have demanded. As you know, the management had offered only two months basic salary as advance. After discussion they came up offer for 4 months basic pay only which was not acceptable to United Forum. To protest against the arbitrary discussion of management and also demanding advance as demanded, United Forum called for immediate programme of action.

In the corporate office more than 1500 comrades participated in the hunger strike organized on 04.05.2009 as per the decision of the United Forum. Leaders of the United Forum addressed. The officials of NTR and Corporate office units walked out and joined the hunger strike. It was the biggest ever hunger strike organized at the Corporate office premises.

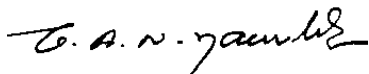
Reports received all over India is very encouraging. Majority workers in all places participated in the walk-out and demonstration. In many places members of other unions (outside United Forum) also participated in the walk-out.

The stage is set for the strike on 19-20 May 2009. The Central Secretariat of BSNLEU has called upon all the Circle Secretaries to hold extended Central Executive Committee meetings in preparation of the strike. CHQ office bearers will participate in these CEC meetings.

It has also been decided to hold big convention in big cities, in which leaders of United Forum will participate. Circle Secretaries are requested to contact CHQ to finalize the dates.

With Warm Regards,

Yours Comradely,



V.A.N. Namboodiri
General Secretary