

JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE OF BSNL ASSOCIATIONS / UNIONS

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GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI – 110 001

Press Release

19th April 2010

BSNL WORKERS' STRIKE STARTS FROM 20TH APRIL

The Three lakh executives and Non-executives of BSNL will strike work from 20th April 2010 against the proposed disinvestment of BSNL, Retrenchment of one lakh workers through VRS and sharing of valuable BSNL infrastructure including cables and towers with private telecom companies. The workers demand that these anti-people, anti-PSU and anti-workers recommendations of the Sam Pitroda Committee are to be out rightly rejected. Further the proposals for disinvestment, VRS are in violation of the earlier assurances given to the unions and should be dropped. The strike will start at 0600 AM on 20th April 2010.

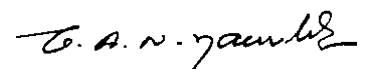
Another major demand of the strike is the issue of absorption of about 1500 ITS officers in BSNL. Though it is more than 10 years after corporatisation, these officers who are in top level management are still in deputation in BSNL without absorption. This has created a very complicated situation which is seriously and adversely affecting the growth and future of BSNL. The paucity of mobile lines to provide to the people is another reason for the insufficient growth of the company. Tenders are floated but they are scrapped resulting in capacity crunch. The Government and the management should ensure that sufficient lines are made available to the BSNL for serving the people. Pension revision of BSNL retirees is another important demand of the workers.

While pay revision has been granted to ITS officers in 2008 and for Executives in 2009, the wage revision for non-executives numbering about 2,50,000 are pending more than three years. There is no justification for the delay since the agreement between the management and the recognised union has been reached months ago.

The meetings with the Secretary, DOT held on 1st April and with the Minister of Communications & IT on 16th April has not been able to sort out the issues, except giving some vague assurances. On the one side the management states that they will discuss with the union, but it takes arbitrary decision to scrap 93 million mobile lines. It has also arbitrarily adopted a resolution for 10% disinvestment without any consultation with the unions, who are also important stake holders of the company.

The Joint Action Committee which met today, 19th April 2010 reiterated its decision to go on strike since the demands raised by the JCA are not settled. We express our thanks to all the central trade unions like INTUC, AITUC, CITU, BMS, UTUC, TUCC etc. who have extended solidarity and full support to the strike of the BSNL workers. We also express our thanks to the Confederation of Central Government Employees, State Government Employees Federation, many unions of PSUs and others.

We demand the management and the Government not to take an adamant stand but settle the issues through discussion with the Joint Action Committee and avoid paralysation of the BSNL services. We seek the support of all in our struggle for justice.



(V.A.N.NAMBOODIRI)
Convenor, JAC