



SANCHAR NIGAM EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

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To

**Shri. P. K. Purwar,
Chairman and Managing Director,
BSNL, New Delhi.**

Sub: Non-launching of 4G Services by BSNL even after 1 year 3 months really shaking BSNL. BSNL missed precious 5 months after the Cabinet approval on 23.10.2019. BSNL Revival is fully depends on 4G services and then only Revival will pick up momentum. BSNL should avail the allotted 4G spectrum and provide 4G or 3G services as per the availability of equipments for better speed and coverage and earn revenue. Thousands of Crores spend in Phase VIII tender for 4G equipments should not become waste.

Respected Sir,

Govt fulfilled its commitment on BSNL Revival by the allotment of 4G spectrum on 23.10.2019. Thereafter the ball was in the court of BSNL Management to launch 4G services. Other operators launched their 4G services from 2014 onwards and in big way from 2016. BSNL Management was always telling us that it is not able to provide 4G services due to non-allotment of 4G spectrum by the Govt. Even BSNL has spend about Rs 6000 Crores and made its 4G network ready by 2018 through Phase VIII tender. Finally Govt allotted 4G spectrum free of cost. For this, BSNL employees made lot of sacrifices, gone for different agitations on many occasions with Pay cut for many days to ensure that 4G spectrum is allotted to BSNL.

After the Union Cabinet decision, BSNL got long 5 months, upto March 2020, to upgrade its network fully to launch 4G services before Govt announced Make In India policy. We lost the opportunity and miserably failed in utilizing it. A wise management decision at right time would have saved the company. Instead of focusing to upgrade existing network to 4G by spending hardly 2500 Crores, BSNL focused on new tender worth 9000 Crores for purchasing and deploying new equipments! Net result is that BSNL Revival taken back seat and poor employees not getting even their salary in time.

It is a known fact that evenif the POC is successful, the new tender may take atleast 2 to 3 years to fully roll out and launch 4G services by completing the formality. In another 2 to 3 years, other operators will launch 5G services. The fresh expenditure on 4G will become a waste, in addition to the expenditure incurred in Phase VIII tender.


It is high time for BSNL management to look for all other alternatives to utilize the available network and the Govt allotted 4G spectrum to provide data services with maximum speed and better coverage. PAN India coverage of 4G cannot be achieved in the near future. The 5 MHz 4G spectrum allotted by the Govt can be availed immediately. It can be utilized for 4G services as well as 3G services by small upgradations, sorting out license issues, software procurement etc. There are about 13,300 BTSs supplied by Nokia itself. By procuring of Software, License and Radio equipments from Nokia, we can give 4G services in two potential zones. Major and potential Circles are in these two Zones. There is no issue in upgrading the Nokia equipments. BSNL may consider conversion of Nokia BTSs from 1T/2R to 2T/2R so that 10 MHz spectrum can be radiated which will give better speed and experience to the 4G and 3G

customers. The available equipments supplied by ZTE and Huawei also can be effectively utilized by rearrangement. **Atleast BSNL can provide better 4G and 3G services in the State and Dist Capitals with the available resources. Better speed and coverage will arrest Port Out and attract new customers into BSNL.** The unutilized licenses in certain Circles can be diverted and effectively utilized for 4G and 3G services in other Circles. Let us atleast fully capitalize the thousands of Crores investment made on 4G Core and Radio equipments in Phase VII/VIII tender and the 4G spectrum allotted to BSNL. BSNL focus should be for better coverage and data speed so that additional revenue can be ensured within short time. Employees are able to contribute further only after the launch of 4G services by the management.

Parallel to the POC, earnest efforts required for procuring the equipment from M/s Nokia through Add on order. Eventhough the time frame for placing Add on order is over, management should adopt some unorthodox methods to negotiate with the vendor and place Add on order. Otherwise, as everyone knows, BSNL revival will become a nightmare, if management is waiting for the POC route and the new tender for 4G roll out.

We earnestly request BSNL Management to take immediate steps for launching 4G services and improving the speed and coverage of 3G services through various means.

With kind regards,


(Sebastin. K) 12/02/2021

Copy to:

1. Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon MoC & IT, GoI for kind information pl.
2. Shri. Anshu Prakash, Secretary (T), DoT, Sanchar Bhavan for kind information pl.
3. Smt. Anita Praveen, Addl Secretary, DoT, Sanchar Bhavan for kind information pl.
- 4-13. All Directors of BSNL Board for kind information and n/a pl.