

# BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

Recognised Union in BSNL

(Registered Under Indian Trade Union Act 1926. Regn.No.4896)

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BSNLEU/ 103

14.09.2017

To

Ms. Aruna Sundararajan,  
Secretary, DoT  
Ministry of Communications,  
Sanchar Bhawan 20,  
Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001

Madam,

Sub: - **Decision of the Union Cabinet to form BSNL's Subsidiary Tower Company – req.**

BSNLEU, the Major Recognised Representative Union of BSNL, wishes to bring the following to your kind notice, for favour of information and for appropriate action.

It is learned from the updating of the Press Information Bureau that, the Union Cabinet has given approval on 12.09.2017, for the formation of BSNL's Subsidiary Tower Company. Consequent to this, all the 66,000 mobile towers of BSNL, will also be hived off to this Subsidiary Tower Company. **When the DoT sent the Cabinet Note for the formation of a Subsidiary Tower Company, the employees of BSNL have strongly opposed the idea, by going on a total one day strike on 15.12.2016.** It is very unfortunate that, despite this opposition from the employees, the Union Cabinet has taken decision to form the Subsidiary Tower Company. Our Union strongly opposes this decision and requests the government to reverse the decision, in view of the following reasons.

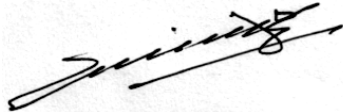
- (a) At a time when the government is implementing disinvestment and privatisation of the Public Sector Undertakings, the employees of BSNL fear that soon after formation of the Subsidiary Tower Company, strategic sale would take place, and ultimately the Subsidiary Tower Company would slip into the hands of the private. Considering the vigorous disinvestment and privatisation policies being pursued by the Government of India, the BSNL employees are not prepared to believe the words that the Subsidiary Tower Company would remain as a 100% government company, and that it would be fully owned by BSNL.
- (b) Our Union, as well as the employees of BSNL are not prepared to subscribe the view that formation of a Subsidiary Tower Company would strengthen the financial position of BSNL. The 66,000 mobile towers of BSNL are the Company's lifeline. If these towers are hived off to the Subsidiary Tower Company, it will further worsen the financial condition of BSNL. More importantly, it will adversely affect the ongoing financial revival of BSNL. If private entry into the Management of the Subsidiary Tower Company takes, place through a strategic sale, BSNL will be forced to pay charges at commercial rates, for getting connectivity through its mobile towers. This is an undesirable situation for BSNL.
- (c) BSNL need not copy the example of the private telecom companies. Private companies are having separate tower companies only for the purpose of tax evasion.
- (d) BSNL needs to start its 4G service without further delay. However, it is not having 4G spectrum. The Company has already approached the government, for the allotment of 4G spectrum. It is

also suggested that the cost of the spectrum could be infused as additional capital into BSNL, by the government. If the government really wants to strengthen BSNL, it should help BSNL in getting 4G spectrum, as per the above suggestion. However, instead of taking such steps to strengthen BSNL, the government is weakening BSNL, by compelling it to hive off it's towers to the Subsidiary Tower Company.

In view of the foregoing, BSNL Employees Union strongly demands the Government of India to reverse it's decision to form a Subsidiary Tower Company of BSNL. ***To oppose the government's decision to form a Subsidiary Tower Company, the entire Non-Executives and Executives of BSNL will conduct country wide protest lunch hour demonstrations tomorrow the 15.09.2017.*** It is also being contemplated to intensify the struggles, in case the government does not pay heed to the demand.

Thanking you,

*Yours sincerely*



**(P. Abhimanyu)**  
**General Secretary**

Copy to: (1) The Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi – 1  
(2) Shri Anupam Shrivastava, CMD BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi - 1  
(3) Ms. Sujata T. Ray, Director (HR), BSNL, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi - 1