

**BSNLEU    NFTE BSNL    NUBSNLW (FNTO)    BSNL MS  
SNATTA            BSNL ATM            TEPU            BSNL OA**

***General Strike on 26.11.2020.  
Make it a grand success.***

Dear comrades,

The Government of India announced BSNL's Revival Package one year ago, with much pomp and show. However, except retrenching 80,000 employees under the VRS, the government has not done anything meaningful, for the revival of BSNL. On the contrary, the government itself is creating problems in the revival of BSNL, by blocking its 4G launching.

The tender floated by BSNL to procure 4G equipments, has been forcibly cancelled by the government. When all the private companies are procuring world class mobile equipments from international vendors, BSNL is being forced to procure unproven equipments from Indian vendors. Media reports say that, BSNL will be directed to roll out its 4G networks through a System Integrator. Experts have said that, this is expensive and will create technical problems. This is nothing but a conspiracy to weaken and ultimately kill BSNL.

Since BSNL is unable to start its 4G service, its financial condition continues to be pathetic. Even after retrenchment of 80,000 employees under VRS, the remaining employees are not getting salary on the due date. Further, the BSNL Management is not settling even the genuine demands of the employees, citing the Company's financial position.

The big question that arises is, why BSNL's tender has been cancelled by the government. The straight answer is that, the government does not want BSNL to offer a stiff competition to Reliance Jio. As per TRAI's data, in the month of July, 2020 alone, Vodafone Idea had lost 37 lakh customers. Whereas, BSNL, which is not having 4G technology, had added 3.88 lakh new customers. So, it is very clear that, if BSNL gets 4G technology, it will give a tough competition to Jio and exactly this is the reason why BSNL is not being permitted to start 4G service.

It must be understood that it is not only BSNL, which has come under attack from the government. The entire public sector is facing serious attacks. For example, 150 trains are already handed over to the private. It is being told that, Indian corporate, Adani will take over the Indian Railways within 2 / 3 years. The airports are also being handed over to Adani. BPCL is a cash rich oil PSU, paying Rs.8,000 crore as dividend to the government every year. Its asset value is Rs.9.5 lakh crore. This company is now being sold out by the government for a paltry amount of Rs.60,000 crore. 90 oil fields, explored by the ONGC and the OIL, are already handed over to the private. Mukesh Ambani is all set to take over the entire petroleum sector.

41 Ordnance Factories of the Government of India, which are producing crucial arms and ammunitions for our armed forces, are being handed over to the Indian and foreign corporates. Electricity Distribution Networks are being privatised, despite the severe opposition from 12 Chief Ministers.

The PSU banks are being privatised. The Finance Minister has announced that except 5 PSU banks, all others will be privatised. The prestigious LIC is also facing privatisation. As the first step, the government has decided to sell 25% of LIC's shares through the IPO route. Coal mining is being handed over to the Indian and foreign corporates, by selling out the Coal blocks.

The above details clearly tell us that, the Narendra Modi government is determined to demolish the Indian Public Sector. Now, the question is, will BSNL alone survive as a public Sector Company, when the entire Public Sector of the country is demolished? Not possible! Hence, to protect BSNL as a Public Sector Company, we, the employees of BSNL, have to join the struggle of the entire working class of the country, to defend public sector.

The government is also snatching away the rights of the workers. Even the hard - won right of "8 hour working day" has come under attack. At the behest of the Narendra Modi government, 19 state governments increased the working hours from 8 hours a day to 12 hours a day and also suspended all the Labour Laws, when the lock-down

was imposed. Thereafter, the government has brought 3 Labour Codes, replacing the existing 29 Labour Laws of the country.

These 3 Labour Codes empower the employers and the corporates to hire and fire the workers. It is in this direction that, the BSNL Management has amended the CDA Rules, to retire any employee who is 50/55 years of age, or who has completed 30 years of service. The steps being taken by the Modi government to impose slavery on the working class, in the name of Labour Law Reforms, cannot be accepted. We have to fight, to force the government, to roll back the Labour Law changes.

Various public sector and government department employees have already shown the way forward. The Ordnance Factories' employees went on a 5 day glorious strike in 2019, against the privatisation of the Ordnance Factories. Again, they issued notice to go on indefinite strike from 12.10.2020. However, the strike has been deferred, following the assurance given by the government. The Coal workers went on a 3 day strike in July, 2020, which has pushed back the government's efforts to privatise Coal Blocks. The entire BPCL employees have gone on a 2 day strike against the privatisation of BPCL. The indefinite strike of the workers and officers of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity, has forced the government to come down and to sign an agreement, dropping privatisation.

It is under these circumstances, the 10 Central Trade Unions of the country have given the clarion call for a General Strike on 26.11.2020. To make this strike successful in BSNL, 8 unions and associations are jointly appealing to the employees of BSNL to enmasse join the General Strike on 26-11-2020.

#### ***Demands of BSNL employees.***

- 1) **Immediately launch BSNL's 4G service. Do not discriminate vis-a-vis private operators in procurement of equipments.**
- 2) **Settle 3rd Wage Revision w.e.f. 01.01.2017.**
- 3) **Stop retrenching contract workers. Stop indiscriminate outsourcing of works. Re-engage all the retrenched contract workers. Immediately pay their wage arrears.**
- 4) **Settle pension revision w.e.f. 01.01.2017.**
- 5) **Implement a New Promotion Policy for the Non-Executives.**
- 6) **Immediately hold the JTO LICE, JAO LICE, JE LICE and TT LICE.**
- 7) **Ensure cashless treatment in empanelled hospitals. Provide Rs.10 lakh cash compensation to the employees who die due to COVID-19, at par with the Postal Department.**
- 8) **Implement Group Term Insurance (GTI) for the Non-Executives.**
- 9) **Implement 30% superannuation benefits to the Directly Recruited employees.**
- 10) **Implement revision of casual labourers' wages.**

#### ***Demands of Central Trade Unions.***

- 1) **Cash transfer of Rs 7500 per month for all non-income tax paying families.**
- 2) **10 kg free ration per person per month to all needy.**
- 3) **Expansion of MGNREGA to provide 200 days' work in a year in rural areas, at enhanced wages; extension of employment guarantee to urban areas.**
- 4) **Withdraw all anti farmer laws and anti-worker Labour Codes.**
- 5) **Stop privatisation of the Public Sector including the financial sector and stop the corporatisation of Govt. run manufacturing and service entities like Railways, Ordnance Factories, Ports etc.**
- 6) **Withdraw the draconian circular on forced premature retirement of Government & PSU Employees.**
- 7) **Provide Pension to all, scrap NPS and restore earlier Pension, improve EPS-95.**

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