

भारतीय मजदूर संघ BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH

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To, Shri Narendra Damodardas Modi ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, South block Kartvaya path, New Delhi - 110001.

Subject: Launching of BSNL's 4G & 5G services which has become an immediate necessity not only in the interest of nation but also for the citizens of India especially in view of the recent tariff hike by Private Telecom Operators, Regarding.

Respected Sir,

We extend our good wishes on behalf of employees of BSNL and express our support and cooperation on the decisions taken in the national interest and in the interest of people of India. Your Idea of Atma Nirbhar Bharat has definitely reaped huge benefit for Bharat Rashtra and especially the cherished dream of a home grown 4G/5G technology which will make Bharat one amongst the select few nations to possess the technology. The employees of BSNL have always stood firmly with this idea of Swadeshi 4G/5G and have been doing great work to ensure the full-fledged technology is developed at the earliest. It is indeed true that the task is mammoth and the road to achieving the desired goal is full of difficulties and complexities. We are sure that with the technical expertise which our fellow countrymen possess, these difficulties will be a thing of the past. We express our good wishes on the success of the Project.

However, we take this opportunity to highlight a very crucial issue which necessitates an immediate attention from Government of India. As you are aware that the recent tariff hike by leading telecom service providers, Reliance Jio and Airtel have affected public at large and the public is being virtually forced to cough up a hefty amount to these telcos as the government telecom operator i.e BSNL has still not rolled out its full-fledged 4G/5G service. It's a known fact that BSNL has always acted as a market balancer in the Telecom Market which has always kept the private telcos in check for increasing the tariff. When BSNL launched its nationwide cellone service, all Telcos were forced to reduce the mobile tariff, when BSNL made incoming free, all the telcos were forced to follow the same, similarly when BSNL made all India Roaming Free in 2015, all the telcos were forced to make roaming free. Hence crucial presence of BSNL and its service in the sector is a must to check the monopolistic pricing by private telecom operators.

Recently Reliance Jio and Airtel have increased their tariffs drastically in the range of 11% to 25% as per the media reports. This drastic hike in tariff has affected Bhartiya Citizens and has resulted in huge difficulties for the common people who have been using the mobile not only as the means of communications but also as a mode of earning their daily livelihoods. **The data services will go**

out of bounds from poor people of the country and the prestigious Digital India program will also receive a setback which basically aims at bridging the digital divide. The private telcos have already earned huge profits in last few years and this hike was totally unnecessary and without any justification. Hence government must take immediate efforts to force these telcos to roll back the rate hike.

Further, this rate hike by private telcos once again brings back the focus on presence of BSNL in Telecom Sector as Market Balancer. BSNL has not been able to upgrade its network to 4G/5G services because of the constraints laid down on it for not using standard 4G/5G Equipment from global vendors. Though we do understand the significance of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat in Telecom and firmly support the idea but at the same time we consider it paramount to allow BSNL to launch the services by allowing it to upgrade its existing Infra till the time Swadeshi Technology is developed. The presence of BSNL as full fledged 4G/5G Telecom Player is a must, not only in the interest of nation and BSNL but also for the common people of our country. As a result of not having access to 4G and 5G services, BSNL customers are not being able to use high-speed data services which is leading to massive churn in its subscriber base which is adversely affecting the financial health of the company, its employees and also general public who are being denied access to cheaper data service.

Hence, we request your kind intervention in allowing BSNL to be provided with the necessary support to launch its 4G and 5G services which will not only protect the interests of its customers but also will help in regulating the market and stop illogical tariff hikes by private telecom operators. Therefore, BMS urges the government to take immediate steps to ensure that BSNL can expeditiously launch its 4G services and subsequently upgrade to 5G. We are confident that with the right support, BSNL can play a crucial role in providing affordable and accessible telecom services to the people of India.

Respected sir, we thank you for your kind attention to this issue, and we look forward for an early positive action.

With profound regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Ravindra Himte) [General Secretary

Copy to:

- 1. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia ji, Hon'ble Minister for Communications, for kind attention and necessary action please.
- 2. Shri Ravi Shil Verma, General secretary AIGETOA, BSNL
- 3. Shri R.C. Pandey, General Secretary, BTEU (BSNL)
- 4. Shri H.V.Sovani, General Secretary, BDPS