

JOINT FORUM OF **BSNL ASSOCIATIONS / UNIONS OF** **EXECUTIVES & NON-EXECUTIVES**

Press Release

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Joint Forum calls for Agitational Programmes to Save BSNL

The Joint Forum of BSNL Associations / Unions of Executives and Non-Executives in its meeting held on 1st January, 2010 has decided to organize agitational programmes protesting against the decision of BSNL Board to keep the mobile lines tender purchase on hold on the plea of CVC inquiry and demanding the government and management to immediately issue purchase order for the 93 million GSM lines so that BSNL is enabled to provide further mobile connections to the people.

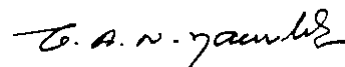
The BSNL is starved of GSM lines since 2007, when the tender of 43 million GSM lines were reduced to half by BSNL Board at the behest of vested interests. Even the purchase of 2.25 million lines was finalized only after the entire three lakh executives and Non-executive went on strike on 11th July, 2007. It was assured later that to compensate, a mega tender of 93 million GSM lines will be floated and will be available without delay.

Even after almost two years the mega tender for 93 million has not materialized to purchase order. At every stage there was continued blocks and opposition. M/s Nokia Siemens Networks, which was disqualified from tender on technical grounds went to A.P. High Court to stop the tender. An 'Integrity panel' was asked to look in to 'irregularities'. Both found no irregularity and the case in High Court was dismissed. But before proceeding further the BSNL Board in its meeting on 30th December has decided to withhold the tender on the plea of some CVC inquiry as to how and why the management has negotiated to reduce the rates with M/s Ericsson after the tender was finalised. It is well known that such negotiations usually take place so that the cost is reduced. In the last tender also this procedure was adopted to the benefit of the company.

Already due to GSM lines crunch and connected issues market share of BSNL has gone down to 16.38%. In mobiles it is in 4th position and in total of land line & mobile it is in 3rd position. If the GSM tender purchase orders are not issued then there will no lines to provide and BSNL will further go down.

The Joint Forum which met on 1st January, 2010 after detailed decision has decided to request the intervention of Prime Minister so that BSNL is allowed to go with procuring the mobile lines. Hundreds of telegrams have already been sent to Prime Minister by our leaders at Circle and District level seeking PM's intervention. Joint Forum has also called upon the entire workers to demonstrate on 5th January on their demands.

We seek the support of all people in our fight for justice.



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Convenor,
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