



BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

Central Head Quarters

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BSNLEU/604 (DEV)

27.05.2024

To

(1) **Shri Neeraj Mittal,**
Secretary, Telecom,
Sanchar Bhawan,
20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001

(2) **Shri P.K. Purwar,**
Chairman and Managing Director, BSNL,
Bharat Sanchar Bhawan,
H.C. Mathur Lane, Janpath,
New Delhi-110 001

Sir,

Sub: - **Monetisation of BSNL's Surplus Land and Buildings – reg.**

Ref: - **Secretary Telecom DO letter No. 10-1/2022 – Asset Mgmt., dated 21st May 2024.**

With reference to the letter cited above, we wish to bring the following points to your kind attention for necessary action.

The Secretary, Telecom, vide the letter cited above, has highlighted the sale of BSNL's assets located in prime areas across the country. This letter is being circulated widely on social media, causing apprehensions in the minds of BSNL employees. Given the severe financial crisis currently being faced by BSNL, this communication is being viewed as the one facilitating a distress sale.

In this context, we wish to underscore two critical issues. Repeatedly, management has stated that only surplus land and buildings would be monetised. However, the reality is something else. For instance, in Mumbai, employees and pensioners occupying staff quarters in at least two places have been forcibly evacuated to facilitate the sale of those lands and buildings. BSNLEU has already brought this issue to the notice of CMD of BSNL, with the request to stop the same.

Similarly, in various cities and towns, employees working in offices situated in prime city and town locations are being forcibly shifted to buildings on the outskirts, with the view to sell the prime location properties. This action of the Management is inconsistent with the declared policy of monetising only surplus assets. The forcible eviction of employees and occupants of staff quarters for this purpose is unacceptable.

When the Union Cabinet decided on the monetisation of BSNL's surplus lands and buildings, BSNLEU, along with other unions and associations, strongly demanded that the proceeds from such sales should come to BSNL and should not be taken over by the government. However, employees still remain apprehensive as to whether the proceeds will be used for BSNL's network expansion or will be taken over by the government. No concrete written commitment has been given to the recognised unions and associations of BSNL in this regard. Employees are important stakeholders of the Company. As such the recognised unions and associations which represent the employees are entitled for a formal written assurance on this matter.

In view of the foregoing, we earnestly urge upon the DoT and the BSNL management to kindly ensure the following actions:

- (1) Ensure that employees and pensioners residing in staff quarters are not forcibly evacuated for the purpose of monetising these properties.
- (2) Prevent the forcible shifting of employees from offices in prime locations to buildings in the outskirts, solely for the purpose of monetising the prime location properties.
- (3) Provide a clear written commitment that the proceeds from the sale of BSNL's lands and buildings will be utilised exclusively for the expansion of BSNL's networks and will not be taken over by the government.

We hope that you will consider these requests and take appropriate measures to address the concerns of the employees.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



(John Verghese)
Acting General Secretary

Copy to: All Functional Directors of BSNL Board.
