



ALL INDIA
BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL HEAD QUARTERS
37, Laxmibainagar, New Delhi – 110023

President
J.K.MISHRA
Mobile: 9868159951

General Secretary
V.P.ARYA
Mobile:9868210478

No. AIBSNLOA/CHQ/2008/40

Dated: 12th November 2008

To
Dr Manmohan Singh,
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
South Block,
New Delhi - 110 001.

Sub: Inordinate delay to withdraw the ITS Group `A' Officers of Department of Telecommunications working on deemed deputation basis in BSNL and MTNL and filling up the positions by the Officers recruited/employed by these CPSUs – Appeal for kind intervention.

Hon'ble Sir,

We seek for your kind intervention in an issue which is very vital for the survival and progress of two important CPSUs i.e. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). While MTNL was constituted in 1985, BSNL was formed in the year 2000 to provide, operate and maintain Telecom services in India which was once being done by Department of Telecom.

2. Though it is more than 23 years for MTNL and 8 years for BSNL, both these two CPSUs are yet to have their own Managerial level cadres to man the vital positions at the policy making levels. Most of these positions are still being manned by the ITS Group `A' Officers of Department of Telecommunications who have got no accountability and responsibility towards these CPSUs since they are on deemed deputation and continue to be Government Servants. Several opportunities were given to these Officers to exercise option for absorption in these two CPSUs with improved service conditions. But on one plea or the other most of them have declined to take absorption. It is important to note that the Group `A' Officers of Telecom Finance, Telecom Civil, Telecom Electrical, Telecom Architectural, Telecom Factory Organizations etc have already taken absorption in BSNL and MTNL- though some of them opted to remain in Government Service. But it is only in case of the Officers of Indian Telecom Service Group `A' – a majority of them have declined to take absorption. The logical option for the Government i.e. Department of Telecommunications, in these circumstances, is to terminate the deputation of these Officers in BSNL and MTNL which expired long back and redeploy them elsewhere as per Rules. But here only we find the authorities to fumble – possibly due to the influence of these Officers in decision making. We find that instead of taking the necessary measures as required after the process of calling of option for absorption is over, efforts are being made to reverse certain important decisions taken by the Cabinet in the matter of allowing prospective absorption and extension of deemed deputation period – overlooking their impact on several lakhs of employees in Group

C & D including Group `B` level Officers of DoT who have already taken absorption in these two CPSUs.

3. Both BSNL and MTNL are passing now through a critical phase. The Private Telecom Operators are able to move ahead of these CPSUs in many areas. At this stage, both these two CPSUs need committed and dedicated leadership. Only those Managers who are having full accountability and responsibility towards these CPSUs can lead in right direction. It is high time that these two CPSUs are allowed to get rid of those ITS Group A Officers who have not taken absorption. We would further like to submit that:

(a) we are unable to subscribe to the views expressed by the Management that without these ITS Officers, BSNL/MTNL cannot perform. When the private Telecom Service Operators are performing better without the ITS Officers, why BSNL/MTNL can not.

(b) the date of absorption for these officers alone cannot be a different one from the date that was decided for all other employees including the Group B and other Group A Officers who have taken absorption. These ITS Group `A` Officers alone cannot have absorption from a prospective date. There should not be any discrimination on this matter.

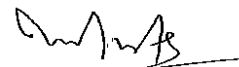
(c) the deemed deputation in BSNL was allowed for all employees by the Government only up to a period of five years w e f 1.10.2000. A proposal to extend the deputation period for another five years for the Group A Officers alone, was earlier rejected by the Cabinet. Any rethinking on this issue will have impact on others and the process of absorption will never be complete.

(d) the Sixth Central Pay Commission in its Report (vide Para 7.6.4) on Department of Telecommunications had recommended that '**No need therefore exists for retaining separate Telecom Commission in this Department.**' and '**Continuous necessity of retaining Indian Telecom Service (Group A) does not therefore exist. All the existing officers in this service should be either absorbed in BSNL/MTNL or else sent to the surplus pool.**' [Copy enclosed]. By giving an opportunity to the ITS Group `A` Officers to exercise option for absorption in BSNL and MTNL, at least one part of the recommendation has been implemented. Now, the second part has to be implemented i.e. those who have not opted for absorption are to be sent to surplus cell.

4. Finally, we earnestly appeal to you to kindly intervene in this matter, so that one particular section of the Officers are not allowed undue benefits by bending the rules and in discrimination to the other employees and officers who followed the policy of the Government. Let those ITS Group `A` Officers who have not exercised option for absorption in BSNL and MTNL be withdrawn from these CPSUs immediately.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(V.P.Arya)
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Shri A Raja,
Minister of Communications & IT.
2. Shri P Chidambaram,
Minister of Finance.
3. Shri Santosh Mohan Deb,
Minister of Public Enterprises & Heavy Industries.
4. Shri. Prithviraj chavan,
Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
5. Shri K Chandrasekhar,
Cabinet Secretary.
6. Shri Siddhartha Behura,
Secretary, Deptt of Telecom.