

FNTO leaders' anti-strike campaign is anti-worker & pro-management

Nothing but blabbering and barking

FNTO in their website wrote against the strike today (15th December 2011) against the strike in BSNL indicating that it lost its character as a trade union and became agent of the management.

It says VRS is not yet approved by the Government and funds for its implementation not yet allotted and hence strike at this stage is not necessary. Then why they participated in the earlier strikes against VRS? Whether the Government approved and allotted funds for VRS at that time? No. BSNL proposed the VRS, JAC including FNTO went on strike. Due to this, the VRS was dropped at that time. Now why FNTO is talking differently? Whether their intelligence increased to such an extent that trade union should strike not for prevention of VRS, but only to invite VRS after its approval by the Government?

The President of FNTO found a new right for the workers which is not known so far to others in the trade union movement! He says VRS is the right of the workers! So, when ever VRS is not given by the management, it is the deprivation of the workers right and FNTO will go on strike to give VRS to workers! The management wants to retrench 1,00,000 employees in the name of VRS, but FNTO wants all the 2,76,000 employees to take this VRS since it is their right! If any union supports VRS which is nothing but retrenchment with some seeming additional amount, but in reality the deprivation of the full benefit of full service, it cannot be called as Union just as it cannot be called salt when it loses saltiness. If VRS for 1,00,000 employees is accepted by the workers, it will encourage the management to go for another VRS for another 1,00,000 workers and they will go on doing this until the strength of the employees is reduced to 25000 as in Airtel and then BSNL will be sold dead cheap. Therefore by supporting VRS, FNTO is supporting retrenchment and privatisation.

FNTO says the recognized union agreed for 68.8% DA merger for wage revision and hence has no right for going on strike demanding wage revision based on 78.2% DA merger. In such case FNTO should go on strike for this demand since they have not signed the agreement and hence they have the full right to go on strike. Then why it is not going on strike? Every body knows the fact that BSNLEU and United Forum went on 2 days strike in 2009 demanding wage revision based on pay+78.2% DA merger and because of that only the management was compelled to add the clause in the agreement that the issue of granting 78.2% DA merger would be considered along with the executives. At that time FNTO organised a campaign for sending letters from individual employees for immediate wage revision with 68.8% DA merger. BSNLEU and United Forum saved the situation by going on strike and getting this clause included in the wage revision. Based on this

clause, further compulsion was created by BSNLEU and United Forum and BSNL Board agreed in principle to grant wage revision based on 78.2% DA merger, but said it would be implemented after improvement in the financial condition of BSNL. The strike on 15th December is to demand that it should not be linked with the financial condition of BSNL and should be granted immediately.

FNTO says recognised union signed agreement for non-payment of bonus when the company is in loss. This is a lie. In fact FNTO was with the recognized union BSNLEU at that time when bonus formula was evolved by the DoT. Recognized union's view was asked before formulating the bonus formula and BSNLEU told clearly that bonus should be paid even when the Company would be in loss. But in the name of DPE guidelines, the DoT did not agree, but made some improvements in the bonus amount to be granted when the company is having profit. Thus there is no agreement on bonus formula. We are fighting for its improvement so that minimum bonus is given even when the Company is facing loss. As the recognized union, the BSNLEU achieved the remaining 25% bonus for the year 2003-04 also. Hence what FNTO says is a lie. If it is really interested in bonus for the employees when the company is in loss, it should now participate in the strike, instead of running away from the strike.

Instead of participating in the strike along with all other unions, FNTO is spreading all sorts of lies to justify its running away from the strike. They are saying BSNLEU is having the hidden agenda of reducing the retirement age from 60 to 58. This is a blatant lie and in fact, by agreeing for VRS, FNTO wants to give blank cheque to management to retrench as many employees as it likes in the name of VRS. To cover up this anti-trade union and anti-worker attitude, they are spreading these lies.

When the Government is creating losses to BSNL by denying compensation for loss making rural services, by denying reimbursement of licence fee, by imposing an unwarranted payment of Rs 8600 crores (Rs 7500 crores in the name of notional loan and Rs 1100 crores as interest on it) in the name of repayment of loan which was never given to BSNL, by collecting Rs 18500 crores in the name of 3G and BWA spectrum which it should not have collected, and by implementing several other such policies imposing losses on BSNL, is it not the duty of FNTO to participate in the strike along with other unions and associations? History will not forgive them for this betrayal.

The strike today (15th December 2011) is necessary in the interest of BSNL and its all employees including non-executives and executives. It is the responsibility of each and every employee in BSNL, whether executive or non-executive, to participate in the strike and make it a grand success.