

UNITED FORUM OF BSNL UNIONS

**BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION
TELECOM EMPLOYEES PROGRESSIVE UNION
BSNL MAZDOOR SANGH (BTEF)
ALL INDIA BACKWARD CLASSES TELECOM EMPLOYEES SANGATHAN
SC/ST EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF BSNL
BAHUJAN TRADE UNION OF BSNL
SANCHAR NIGAM ASSOCIATION OF TELECOM TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS**

UF/Strike

17.08.2009

To

Shri Shakeel Ahmad,
GM (SR), BSNL,
Bharat Sanchar Bhawan,
Janpath, New Delhi – 110 001

Sir,

Sub: 48 hour strike on 19-20 August, 2009 – req.

Ref: Lr. No. BSNL/7-10/SR/2009 dated 7th August, 2009.

With reference to the letter No. cited above, I wish to state the following.

At the outset I wish to state that the United Forum has been compelled to serve the notice, for strike, on 19th and 20th instant, only because of the adamant, discriminative and lethargic attitude of the management.

As stated in the above cited letter, the earlier notice for strike on 19th and 20th May, 2009, was deferred, following an understanding reached between the union and the management. According to the understanding, management agreed to grant two more months' basic pay as Interim Relief and also agreed to implement the new HRA rates. But, you will agree that these were only peripheral demands. The core demand is wage revision. As regards this central issue, it was assured in the agreement reached on 18th May, 2009, that ***it would be expedited through negotiations in the Wage Negotiation Committee.***

Can the management say that it had honestly attempted to implement this assurance given to the union? After the agreement is reached on 18th May, 2009, only one meeting of the Wage Negotiation Committee has taken place on 5th June, 2009. Thereafter no meeting has taken place till 13th August, 2009 and every thing was kept in cold storage for nearly two and half months.

The earlier Chairman of the Wage Negotiation Committee, Shri R.K. Batra, retired on 30th June, 2009. The new Chairman was appointed only on 10th August, 2009. Despite repeated requests and reminders made by the union, to expeditiously appoint the new Chairman, it took 40 days for the management to make the appointment. Does this not speak volumes about the lackadaisical attitude of the top management on a crucial issue affecting 2½ lakh employees of BSNL?

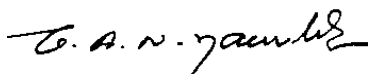
Even the meeting of the Wage Negotiation Committee held on 13th August, 2009 was nothing but a ritual. Management has nothing new to offer on the issues of fitment and periodicity. While the officers of the top management had availed more than 70% pay hike for themselves, they continue to neglect the rightful demands of 2½ lakh employees. This discrimination cannot be allowed for long.

Only because of the concern that the United Forum is having for the reputation, as well as for the well being of the company, it had patiently waited for three long months. But the patience of the union is only treated with contempt by the management. Had the management got a sense of responsibility, it would have called the United Forum for negotiation, soon after the strike notice is served. It had not done so. Instead, the management had advised the United Forum to seek a meeting with the management, if the latter has any doubt in its mind. I shall say that this is nothing, but complete neglect of the workers' issues raised by the recognised union.

In view of the aforementioned, I would like to state that the United Forum sees no reason for reconsideration of the strike notice, that has been served on 31st July, 2009.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely,



VA.N. Namboodiri
Convener, United Forum of BSNL Unions &
General Secretary, BSNLEU.
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