

FNTO's Mudslinging's and our reply

Nowadays it has become a daily routine for Com. Vallinayagam to level baseless allegations against BSNLEU. Normally we do not respond to them, since they do not deserve our replies. May be our silence has emboldened him. He has started crossing all limits, and hence, we would like to clarify certain issues.

1) Promotion Policy

"Under your so called leadership, already the BSNL Workers are deeply divided and got a raw deal in promotion scheme."

(FNTO's letter no.18/FNTO/2009 dated 03.07.2009, addressed to Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri)

Every one knows that NFTE signed an agreement with the management in the National Council, that OTBP/BCR etc. should continue till 31.12.2006. Only because of this agreement, management took a strong position that any new promotion policy for Non-Executives could start only from 01.01.2007 and not before that date. It is this agreement of NFTE, which is the root cause for the differences between the promotion schemes of Executives and Non-Executives. ***Now, the tragedy is that, Com. Vallinayagam is sitting on the shoulders of NFTE and is trying to blame BSNLEU.***

2) Wage Revision

"We are completing 2 ½ years on 30th June, 2009 without wage revision."

(FNTO's website write up dated 03.07.2009)

Com. Vallinayagam tries to blame BSNLEU for this delay. The fact remains that BSNLEU has long back insisted the management to start the wage negotiations. Based on this only the first exploratory wage revision meeting was held on 11th January, 2007. But thereafter, management did not continue the talks on the plea that DoT's approval is not received. Even the present talks started in December, 2008, only after the strike notice was issued by the United Forum.

Our questions to Com. Vallinayagam, in this regard,

- i) Does Com. Vallinayagam know that wage revision has not taken place in any PSU, even after the completion of 2 ½ years, except in Coal India Limited?***
- ii) Com. Vallinayagam was in the alliance of BSNLEU till October, 2008. Why he did not open his mouth and make so much noise on wage revision during that period?***

BSNLEU has made it's best efforts to bring in NFTE also into the wage negotiation forum. But NFTE had rejected the requests, saying that it would not join the wage negotiation unless it gets the right to sign the wage agreement. NFTE knows pretty well that management would sign agreement only with the Recognised Union. This has once again

been reiterated by BSNL management in the record of discussions held with NFTE & FNT0 recently.

“In response to the demand of the unions, the management side clarified that on a number of occasions in the past, it has already been made clear that the management is obliged to hold dialogue and enter into an agreement only with the majority representative union of Non-Executive employees.”

(BSNL letter no. BSNL/7-7/SR/2009 dated 6th July, 2009)

Whether this letter will open the eyes of the BSNL Workers Alliance?

Joint Forum

The Joint Forum is fighting against all the attacks on BSNL, including the IPO. But NFTE and FNT0 have walked out of the Joint Forum, on the plea that the members of NFTE and FNT0 are being vindictively transferred, at the behest of BSNLEU. BSNLEU has already made it clear, that being the recognised union, it is ready to settle the transfer of any employee, who has been transferred vindictively. But so far no case has been brought to the notice of BSNLEU.

But the real reason for NFTE and FNT0 not joining the Joint Forum, in it's agitations against IPO, is some thing different, and it has been recently revealed to the media persons by the CMD / BSNL Shri Kuldeep Goyal. He told, ***“some of the unions in BSNL have already expressed their willingness to accept IPO”***.

Who is political?

It has become the habit of Com. Vallinayagam to say that BSNLEU is carrying out the dictates of a political party. We would like to say that BSNLEU is not a scab union like FNT0, which survives on the oxygen supplied by the govt. and its ministers. BSNLEU is a mighty organization with its 1, 35,000 members and is capable of settling the demands of the employees through its struggles.
