

# **Joint Forum opposes proposal of IPO / Disinvestment**

The Joint Forum of BSNL Associations / unions of Executives and Non-executives held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009, expressed its strong protest against the reported proposal of the management as also government to divest its shares through IPO route. The meeting noted that this is against the assurances given by all the Communications Ministers since the corporatisation in 2000 including S/Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Dayanidhi Maran and the present minister Shri A. Raja. There is no necessity for IPO and there are sufficient funds with the BSNL for its development and expansion plans.

The meeting was presided over by Com. V. Subburaman, General Secretary, TEPU. Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri, General Secretary, BSNLEU and Convenor, Joint Forum reported about the latest developments. After detailed discussion, the following decisions were taken.

1. If the BSNL management invites any union / Association for discussion on IPO / Disinvestment it should not go alone. All the unions / Associations of Joint Forum will go together for any discussion.
2. One pamphlet on the IPO / Disinvestment should be prepared and circulate among the workers explaining our view points.
3. A resolution strongly opposing IPO / Disinvestment and demanding the management / government to drop the proposals as also calling upon the workers to be ready for serious united straggle in case the govt. advances for IPO / Disinvestment.
4. It was decided to address a letter to NFTE, FNTTO etc. who are keeping away from Joint Forum requesting them to join the joint movement against IPO / Disinvestment and other common issues.
5. The meeting expressed its strong resentment at the undue delay in finalizing and issuing orders for 93 million GSM lines, which is causing great loss to BSNL. Despite early allotment of 3G spectrum, BSNL has failed to introduce and market it effectively. The meeting demanded the management for urgent necessary action for improving and expanding its services.
6. The meeting demanded the management to curtail wasteful expenditure and take strict action against corruption.
7. Joint Forum demanded the management to implement its assurance on ITS absorption at the earliest.

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