

Medicine to cure or to kill?

In a move that is going to have far-reaching implications, the Prime Ministers Office has set up a Committee on 14.07.2010 to find out the new CMDs for BSNL and MTNL. This special search selection committee will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary, K.M. Chandrashekar. Other members of the committee are Secretary, Dept. of Personnel, Secretary, DoT, former TRAI member, Dr. D.P.S. Seth, Professor of Stanford University, Dr. Paulraj and HDFC Chairman, Deepak Parikh.

The MTNL has been without a CMD for quite some time, while BSNL's CMD Kuldeep Goyal is retiring on 31.07.2010. In the normal course, the CMD is decided by the appointments committee, which consists of the Minister of Communications and IT, Home Minister and the Cabinet Secretary. The formation of the new 'search' committee by the PMO, is viewed as a move to cut down the influence of the Minister of Communications and IT.

The Sam Pitroda Committee has already recommended the splitting of the post of the CMD into Chairman and the Managing Director. It has also recommended induction of outside persons to the top posts. The names of persons like Arun Sarin are being tipped for the top post in BSNL.

The move of the PMO of adopting a new method for the selection of BSNL's CMD, is widely, seen as a step to salvage BSNL out of it's present crisis. But we have the experience of the Sam Pitroda Committee, which was formed at the personal intervention of Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. It recommended sale of 30% shares to a strategic partner and also retrenchment of one lakh employees through the VRS. These recommendations will only fulfil the dream of the Multi National Company's to swallow BSNL.

The workforce of BSNL has to closely watch what the so called "special search selection committee" is going to do. We have the experience of how the prestigious Air India was ruined in the name of restructuring. It was done to benefit the private airlines. We have also to keep in mind the Globalisation and Liberalisation Policies being followed by the UPA govt. One of it's main agenda is to privatize the entire Public Sector Companies. The National JAC is closely watching the developments. Workers have to react against any move to kill BSNL.
