

**ബിഎസ്എൻഎൽ
പുനരുദ്ധാരണത്തിന്
നടപടി വേണം**

തിരുവനന്തപുരം

കേന്ദ്ര - സംസ്ഥാന വകുപ്പുകളും പൊതുമേഖലാ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും ഇന്റർനെറ്റ്/ബ്രോഡ്ബാൻഡ്/ലാൻഡ്ലൈൻ സേവനങ്ങൾ ബിഎസ്എൻഎൽക്ക് ഉപയോഗിക്കണമെന്ന ഉത്തരവിനെ ബിഎസ്എൻഎൽ എംപ്ലോയീസ് യൂണിയൻ സ്വാഗതം ചെയ്തു. മൊബൈൽ സേവനങ്ങളെക്കൂടി ഉത്തരവിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്ന് യൂണിയൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു. മൊബൈൽ സേവനങ്ങളെ ഉത്തരവിന്റെ പരിധിയിൽനിന്നു മാറ്റിനിർത്തിയത് നിലയൻസ് ജിയോയെ സഹായിക്കാനാണെന്ന് സംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഉത്തരവിന്റെ പരിധിയിൽ ബിഎസ്എൻഎൽ മൊബൈൽ സേവനവും ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ബിഎസ്എൻഎൽ പുനരുദ്ധാരണത്തിന് ആവശ്യമായ നടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്ന് യൂണിയൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചു.

Govt. order on BSNL use not enough: unions

Central government directive to departments, ministries, PSUs does not include mobile connections

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The Central government's recent order mandating all departments, ministries and public sector units to use the telecom services of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) may not bring much change in the fortunes of the State-run telecom companies, as it does not cover mobile connections.

Some departments and public sector units (PSUs) have contracted private companies for the mobile connections for their official

use. For instance, last year, Reliance Jio bagged the contract for the Closed User Group (CUG) mobile connection network for Indian Railways.

The Railway CUG network has 3.78 lakh users, in addition to 7,200 extra connections for bulk SMS purposes.

Staff demand

Though the BSNL Employees' Union (BSNLEU) has welcomed the government's move, it has demanded that this be extended to mobile connections too.

"Exempting mobile connections from this order is

certainly to help private players like Reliance Jio. Most of the ministries and departments already use BSNL landlines. So, the increase in connections from this latest order might not be considerable. But, we stand to gain much from mandating mobile connections from the BSNL in these departments, which has not been done," said C. Santhosh Kumar, State secretary of the BSNLEU.

Many see the latest move as a ploy on the government's part to cool the tempers at the continued denial of permission to the BSNL to

implement its 4G services.

Almost all major trade unions as well as associations of the BSNL were on the protest path after the government cancelled the company's 4G tender in June.

A proposal to upgrade close to 50,000 2G and 3G towers to 4G was also shot down.

The 4G tender was issued in March after much delay. However, a group called Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) objected to the tender saying it is not favourable to Indian companies and goes against 'Make

in India' norms.

The tender was later cancelled in 4G.

No fresh tender

No fresh tender has been issued, as the condition to choose an Indian company is a hurdle.

The employees say there are hardly any Indian companies capable of meeting the BSNL's specifications.

They also point to the fact that all private companies depend on foreign manufacturers, and none of them had to face any such conditions from the Central government.