

BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

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CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS COMRADES

Dear Comrades,

My Hearty Congratulations to all our CHQ, Circle, District and Branch Office bearers and all workers who have staunchly supported us and made BSNL Employees Union and United Forum to reach the Historic Victory in the IV Membership Verification. I thank the partners of the United Forum also who have jointly worked for this great victory.

The road to victory has been a tortuous one. The desertion of United Forum by FNT0 followed by BSNLWRU was unexpected. They joined the rival camp, led by NFTE. In continuation, Com. Muthukrishnan of SC/ST Employees Welfare Association also left us and joined the NFTE Alliance. We were left with only two other unions. The plan mooted by NFTE and FNT0 was to completely isolate BSNLEU by aligning all the non recognised unions on one side and utilise the psychological advance to defeat BSNLEU in the verification. The fact that our UP(E) Circle Union filed a case against the order granting deduction of union subscription to non-recognised unions was cited as an example of our non-toleration of non-recognised unions. The plan was almost going to succeed.

CHQ acted fast to avoid such a catastrophe. The NFTE-FNT0 alliance had to be broken in the first instance. BSNLMS(BTEF) leaders have earlier given an indication that they may like to join with us. It was only due to the objection of BSNLWRU earlier that further talks were not held. Now that BSNLWRU has left the UF, talks were renewed with BSNLMS and they agreed to join the UF. Then we approached the General Secretary of the SC/ST Employees Welfare Association, Com. B.R.Jakhatia, who agreed to consider the proposals in his executive committee meeting. The committee took a favourable decision and joined UF along with Bahujan Trade Union. We were in contact with SNATTA also, who also joined UF after their Conference. All these unions were offered generous number of seats by the NFTE alliance and we had to go extra mile to bring them to the United Forum. Now the United Forum became a seven unions alliance, that too breaking the NFTE alliance. NFTE had much earlier finalised their alliance and started propaganda in right earnest. We had to clinch our alliance which took time. But once the alliance was finalised we did not wait. Hectic tour programmes were organised and many of our CHQ leaders, including General Secretary, were in the field. Wall-posters were printed from CHQ and sent. Big circles printed their own posters. Notices and propaganda materials were prepared and circulated. The book on the achievements during last four years printed by CHQ was a great help to workers for propaganda. This was translated in to regional languages and circulated. Our comrades at all levels merged themselves fully in to the election work.

The anti-BSNLEU propaganda by NFTE alliance was countered and defeated. CHQ website was effectively used by us. Election materials and matters were continuously supplied through the website which helped the leaders and workers at grass roots level. Our comrades made all out

efforts to ensure victory for BSNLEU. All India leaders of our alliance partners also toured many places and made good contributions.

The NFTE-FNTO alliance finding that their plan to isolate BSNLEU could not succeed became desperate. They realised that their dreams will not fructify and that they are going to lose. Out of anger and desperation, they started abusing our leaders, especially Com. V.A.N.Namboodiri, General Secretary and spreading rumours and slanders. Our leaders and workers kept our propaganda in a dignified way focussing on the issues and not on individuals. In an election period the participant unions will have to justify themselves. If somebody has no truth or fact to say, at least they have to say something and naturally they will go to falsehood and lies. That is what happened to the NFTE-FNTO alliance. The workers understood these falsehoods and gave suitable reply to them at the polls.

Great Victory

The polling took place on 21st January 2009. It was peaceful and in order except one or two stray incidents, which was sorted out. The votes were counted on 23rd and the results were declared by the Chief Returning Officer at 1100 hours in the presence of the participating Unions. BSNLEU was declared as the first union as per number of votes in its support.

Polling Analysis

Out of the total polled votes of 2,36,392 BSNLEU got 1,24,053 (52.47 %) and NFTE got 95,225 votes (40.28 %). If the total voters of 2,48,278 are taken, the percentage comes to 49.97 and 38.35 respectively. BSNLEU got 28,828 votes more than NFTE. In the first verification NFTE got 1,05,209 votes and FNTO 40,215 making a total of 1,45,424 votes. Now it has been reduced to 95,225 including the additional votes of their alliance. This comes to 65.48% of their earlier votes. In the case of BSNLEU the votes in the first verification was 89,496. It has now been increased to 1,24,053, an increase of 138.61%.

In the second membership verification, BSNLEU Alliance including FNTO got 1,39,827 votes(49.25 %). In the IV verification, we got 1,24,053(49.97%) despite FNTO leaving the United Forum. Thus even after FNTO leaving the alliance we could maintain the position.

NFTE alliance in the third verification got 87,189 votes. Despite FNTO joining the NFTE alliance in the fourth verification it could increase only 8036 votes.

All these clearly show that BSNLEU and United Forum have increased its membership and votes continuously. It means that more and more workers have supported the correct policy and line taken by the United Forum. They have appreciated the achievements gained by UF for the BSNL Workers. On any count, this can be considered as a historic victory of the BSNL Workers.

Recognition

The recognition orders as also orders on facilities is expected to be issued on 27th January since 24th to 26th January 2009 are holidays or Saturday/Sunday. NFTE alliance is spreading the rumour that since BSNLEU did not get 50% of the total votes, they will also get recognition as the second union. In the first and second verifications, when the situation was the same, no second union was recognised despite the second unions going to court. As per Code of Discipline also there is recognition for only one union. The rumours are being spread so that its members are stopped from joining BSNLEU. But workers are already aware of the situation.

Co-ordination with our allies

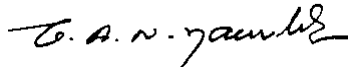
The National Steering Committee of United Forum has already been reconstituted with two members each from the alliance partners. Com. V.A.N.Namboodiri, General Secretary continues as the Convenor. It has been decided to form such Steering Committees at Circle and SSA levels. The names of the Circle Council/Local Councils should be finalised in the steering committee as per our agreement and then sent to CHQ with all the relevant details for nomination to the management. It should be done at the earliest.

Future Tasks

We got a lot immediate issues to be sorted out like wage revision, Interim Relief, Promotional orders etc. etc. We have to act fast and settle the same. At the same time, the victory in the verification has to be utilised for strengthening the union with increasing the membership. We are proposing to hold a Central Executive Committee at the earliest to evaluate the situation and take other necessary decisions.

With Warm Greetings,

Yours Fraternally



**V.A.N.Namboodiri
General Secretary.**