

# **BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION**

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Press Release

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## **BSNL Employees Oppose Disinvestment / VRS**

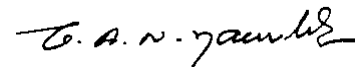
BSNL Employees Union, the recognised and representative union of BSNL Non-executives, strongly oppose the recommendations of the panel headed by Sam Pitroda as reported in press to disinvest 30% of BSNL and to retrench 1 lakh employees through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The recommendations are made on the plea of improving the services and to ensure financial viability.

It is a fact that Market Share of BSNL, revenue as well as profit have drastically gone down during the last two financial years. But it has been mainly due to capacity crunch of mobile lines as the earlier purchase order of 4.5 crore lines was reduced to half and delay in issue of purchase order for 9.3 crore lines due to unwarranted political and administrative interventions. Till 2006 when the tender order was floated short, BSNL was the member one company both in wired lines and total lines. Though it was second in mobiles, it was giving the No.1 mobile company, Bharati Airtel, a stiff fight and was gradually increasing its position to become number one.

The recommendations given by Pitroda Panel is not the panacea. The immediate need is to clear the 9.3 crore GSM tender, increase land line and mobile connections and improve the services. To improve the financial viability, the government should waive the licence fee, dividend etc. to be paid by BSNL to Government for a period of three years and to stop unnecessary interference from above. The issue of finalization of ITS absorption should also be urgently sorted out, so that the present uncertainty and confusion is over.

The recommendations to retrench 1 lakh workers through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has no logic as there is shortage of staff even now in certain areas. About one lakh workers have already retired during the last 9 – 10 years after corporatisation. Any further reduction through VRS will be suicidal and will seriously and adversely affect BSNL development and expansion.

BSNL Employees Union demands the govt. of India to reject the recommendations of Pitroda Panel and take effective measures to save and improve BSNL.



**(V.A.N.NAMBOODIRI)**  
**General Secretary, BSNLEU**