

**A gist on the discussion held between the AUAB
and the DoT, on 24.11.2021.**

At the outset, the AUAB bitterly complained that, the assurances given by Shri Manoj Sinha, the then Minister of State for Communications and Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, the then Secretary, Telecom, in the meetings held in December, 2018, regarding 3rd Pay Revision, payment of pension contribution by BSNL, based on actual basic pay and delinking of pension revision from pay revision, were not implemented by the DoT. Hence, the AUAB insisted that minutes / record of discussion should be issued for this meeting and the decisions taken, should be implemented by the DoT.

Responding to the observations made by the AUAB, the DDG(PM) stated that, hereafter regular interactions would take place between the DoT and the AUAB. Thereafter, he responded to the agenda items submitted by the AUAB. The following are the salient points made out by the DDG(PM).

4G launching by BSNL.

The issue of upgradation of BSNL's BTSs, for providing 4G service, was taken to the ETG (Empowered Technology Group) and the PMO. However, it was not approved. The PMO has insisted that the "Core" of BSNL's 4G equipments must be Indian made.

The TCS is in the process of supplying 4G equipments to BSNL. The CEO of TCS has assured to complete the POC (Proof of Concept) by 31st December, 2021. The POs (purchase orders) will be placed by March / April, 2022. The commercial launching of 4G service by BSNL will take place in August / September, 2022.

The CAPEX (Capital Expenditure) for BSNL's 4G launching comes to Rs.14,000 crore and MTNL's CAPEX for 4G launching comes to Rs.1,000 crore. This Rs.15,000 crore will be borne by the government. Cabinet note will be sent shortly to get the approval of the Cabinet for this.

Payment of pending dues to BSNL by the DoT amounting Rs.39,000 crore.

The DDG(PM) replied that,

- (a) Interest on refund of WIMAX and CDMA spectrum, as being claimed by BSNL, may not come. Comparatively, the government is going to provide a bigger amount for BSNL's 4G launching and revival.
- (b) Refund of Leave Encashment amount is being dealt by some other section in the DoT. The issue is to be taken with them.
- (c) The issue of paying compensation to BSNL, on account of rural telephony services is, being dealt with by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

No handing over of BSNL's mobile towers and optic fibre to the private, under the National Monetisation Pipeline.

The DDG(PM) stated that, the amount coming through monetisation of BSNL's mobile towers and optic fibre, will only go to BSNL. However, the AUAB refuted this and stated that under the National Monetisation Pipeline, this amount will only go to the government. Hence, it was argued strongly that, no monetisation of BSNL's towers

and optic fibre should take place, as is envisaged in the National Monetisation Pipeline.

Payment of pension contribution by BSNL, based on the actual basic pay.

The DDG(PM) stated that, this issue was taken to the Finance Ministry, by the DoT, on three occasions. However, the Finance Ministry did not accept the demand, he stated.

Speeding up of BSNL's land monetisation to off-set the Company's debt.

To this, the DDG(PM) stated that, presently, four properties of BSNL are being sold through DIPAM for Rs.2,000 crores. This money will come only to BSNL. He further stated that, as per the government decision, lands worth below Rs.10 crore could be sold by BSNL itself. Lands worth between Rs.10 crore and Rs.100 crore could be sold with the approval of the DoT. Lands worth above Rs.100 crore could be sold only through the DIPAM.

Immediate settlement of 3rd Pay Revision for the Executives and Non-Executives of BSNL.

The DDG(PM) stated that, a decision on this could be taken only by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications.

Revised PO for E2 and E3 standard pay scales.

The DDG(PM) stated that, the issue could be discussed after receiving complete details.
