



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL HEAD QUARTER
AD-87 B, PITAMPURA, Delhi-110034

PRESIDENT
P. RAMACHANDRAN
MOBILE: 9444903777

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
V. K. SHARMA
MOBILE: 9868174965

GENERAL SECRETARY
RAKESH SETHI
MOBILE: 9868210449

No. AIBSNLOA/CHQ/2020/42

Dated: 11th August 2020

To

Shri P. K. Purwar Ji,
Chairman and Managing Director,
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,
New Delhi-110001.

Subject: Conduct of election for second membership verification of Executive Associations in BSNL – Improper and unsafe practices making the election a farce – regarding

*Ref: 1. Our earlier letter No.AIBSNLOA/CHQ/2020/16 dated 18th June 2020
2. Our letter to Home Secretary, GOI vide No.AIBSNLOA/CHQ/2020/39 dated 21st July 2020*

R/Sir,

We once again lodge our protest against holding election on 18.8.2020 for membership verification of Executive Associations in BSNL, in violation of MoHA guidelines on COVID-19 containment and in utter disregard to safety of the executives and also throwing to the wind all fair measures to be followed in conducting a secret ballot.

2. According to reports received from our Circle Secretaries, the entire election process is being planned in a manner violating all norms for conduct of a free and fair election and also putting the safety of the executives into risk. Some of the important points are:

1. All instructions regarding safety precautions to be followed in offices against COVID-19 infection remain only in paper in most of the offices. There is no guarantee for the safety of the voters and the polling staff who will have to spend hours within closed spaces where the viral load is said to be high.
2. It is not known how indelible mark will be applied by dipping in the same ink bottle and using the same applying stick for the voters, while even in hospitals non-touch options are used for various procedures.
3. There is a high risk of spreading infection through the rubber stamps with swastik mark to be used by every voter for marking his preference.
4. The ballot boxes to be used are non-standard.
5. In the absence of public transport, most of the executives cannot reach the polling stations located far away.
6. The indelible ink is to be purchased from local market. There is no guarantee of genuine ink.
7. The Presiding Officer and the Polling Officer are either SDE or mostly JTO, all members of either of the participating associations.


11/8/2020



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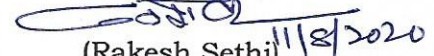
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8. No neutral observer has been arranged. Again, the observer could be member of one of the participating associations.
9. No canvassing could be done any time and no public meeting could be held. Stressing about silence period therefore is just mockery of the right and facility to canvass, as the entire period since declaration of the election has been silence period only.
10. Polling agents of associations will be absent mostly due to lack of public transport.
11. Adequate security arrangement in polling booths, transport of ballot boxes from the polling booths to the SSA Headquarters, safety of the ballot boxes in the SSA HQs and the counting centres – will be in paper only.

3. We, therefore, request that the election may be deferred till the country is free from COVID-19 risk, public transport is restored in the entire country and the other poll processes can be followed in accordance with the Election Commission guidelines or at least in accordance with the procedures which were followed in the first membership verification of Executive Associations in BSNL. Else, we are sorry to say that the election will turn out to be tragic farce.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Rakesh Sethi) 11/8/2020
General Secretary

- Copy to: 1. Shri Anshu Prakash,
Secretary, DoT
2. Shri Arvind Vadnerkar,
Director (HR) BSNL
3. Shri A M Gupta,
Sr. General Manager (SR), BSNL