



ALL INDIA
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No.AIBSNLOA/CHQ/2009/35

Dated: 17th July 2009

To

Shri.A.Raja,
Minister of Communications & IT,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi

Sub: Decision of the Government to support Government controlled Airlines (Air India) by ordering Govt. employees to travel by Air India alone – Request for extending similar support to BSNL/MTNL by ordering use of telecom services by the Government Departments, only from these state run PSUs.

Hon'ble Sir,

Media have been recently flashing reports about the efforts to shore up revenue streams for Air India. Now, the finance ministry has ordered all central government employees to fly only on the state-owned Air India for their official travel—both domestic and international. The fiat will also apply to officials in autonomous bodies funded by the government of India.

2. The Finance Ministry has actually issued an OM asking Govt. officials to travel by Air India, where the Govt. of India bears the cost of the air passage. (copy enclosed). This decision of the Finance Ministry is a part of the package for bailing out Air India, which is in deep crisis.

3. BSNL and MTNL, two PSUs fully owned by Government of India, providing telecom services have lost considerable amount of revenue and market shares. There are many reasons like non-collection of huge revenue, failure to procure equipments and install them on time due to bad planning and cumbersome tendering process, litigations, bad support services, management comprising of the deputationists without responsibility and accountability etc for this down trend. Both these PSUs now need long term measures to reverse the present trend and become telecom market leaders once again. As a part of these measures, the Government needs to make it mandatory to other Government Departments and Undertakings to use only the telecom services offered by BSNL and MTNL, since the expenditure on voice, data and other Telecom services by the Government departments and undertakings are borne by the Government of India. Further, the concerns always being expressed on sensitive security issues involved while using services of private operators are also to be kept in mind.

4. Last year, we witnessed Southern Railway migrating away from BSNL and this year the same Southern Railway removed the BSNL kiosks installed in Central Station, Chennai, which are seen as aberrations. **It is a matter of fact that the private telecom operators provide their staff only with their own products.** While it is so, all Government departments and Government undertakings asking its officials to use only Govt. owned BSNL/MTNL services will be a prudent and sensible decision.

5. In view of the above, we urge upon you to kindly ensure that a similar order, as has been issued in respect of air travel of Govt. officials by Air India only, is issued by the Government of India, directing all Govt. departments and Govt. Undertakings to use only BSNL/MTNL services. **Let Government of India have a common policy in place to support its own Departments/PSUs by other Departments/PSUs.**

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



(V.P.Arya)

General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Dr Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister of India
2. Shri Pranab Mukherejee,
Union Finance Minister.
3. Ms Mamata Banerjee,
Union Railway Minister.
4. Shri.Gurudas Kamat,
Minister of State for Communications,
Govt. of India
5. Shri.Siddharth Behura,
Secretary,
Dept. of Telecommunications,
New Delhi
6. Shri.Kuldeep Goyal,
Chairman & Managing Director,
BSNL, New Delhi
7. Shri R S P Sinha.,
Chairman & Managing Director,
MTNL, New Delhi