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BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED  
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Dated: 31st May 2012

To

Shri Kapil Sibal,  
Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT,  
Government of India,  
New Delhi.

Sub: **Relieving of ITS Group A officers who stand repatriated to DoT - reg**

Sir,

As your kind self is aware that the issue of completion of the process of absorption of ITS Group A officers in BSNL has been unduly dragging for years, even after the Committee constituted by Hon' ble Prime Minister under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda, had recommended for early resolution of the issue, in the interest of survival and growth of BSNL.

2. Following Hon' ble Principal CAT New Delhi orders dated 1.6.2011, options were called for again on 22.9.2011 with the same terms and conditions which were offered during the year 2005 for absorption of ITS Group A officers in BSNL. **Subsequently** DoT issued an order dated 3.11.2011 clearly stating that, **"With the expiry of last date prescribed for exercising option (8.11.2011), the period of deemed deputation will end.** As such, the officers who have neither exercised their option nor have opted for Government Service or have exercised conditional option, **stand reverted to Government."** But only a handful of the ITS officers submitted their option for absorption in BSNL. Subsequently BSNL relieved around 400 non-optee ITS officers on repatriation to DoT in two batches. BSNL's efforts to recruit back the unwilling ITS officers through Special Lateral Direct Recruitment in Sr.DGM and GM/PGM grades has also failed, since the ITS officers wanted their inter-se-seniority in ITS grade to be maintained even after their recruitment in BSNL and acceptance of various other points which were found unacceptable.

3. The fact remains that inspite of various clarifications issued they have decided to remain out of BSNL. Meanwhile, while disposing off a batch of petitions, Hon' ble High Court of Delhi ordered relieving of the non-optee ITS Group A officers within four weeks of its order. BSNL filed a Miscellaneous Petition seeking extension of the time by 25 months. After hearing the arguments, Hon' ble High Court of Delhi ordered completion of the relieving process before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012. In a Communique from the Association of the ITS Group A officers (ITS CHQ) on 18-05-2012, it has been stated that, **".....The miscellaneous petitions filed by BSNL/MTNL in Delhi High Court seeking extension of time for relieving the ITS officers as per the judgement dated 17-04-2012 came up for hearing today. As expected BSNL/MTNL lawyer argued for extension of deadline on the basis of the fact that the operations of these companies will collapse if all these officers are relieved immediately.** The time asked for was more than 2 years. The court was not at all ready for this. **ITSA lawyer opposed the request very vehemently and effectively. It was because of his arguments and also courts own understanding of the matter**

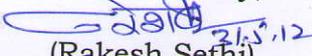
**they were not prepared to grant such long extension.** The court finally settled and ordered the time upto 30-09-2012 for BSNL/MTNL to relieve all the ITS officers who have opted for reversion to Govt. **Let there should be no confusion as this means that all 970 ITS officers in BSNL and 87 ITS officers in MTNL will be covered by this order.**" [Emphasis added]

4. This makes it amply clear that these officers rely on BSNL Management's unfounded belief that operations of BSNL/MTNL will collapse if they are relieved immediately and therefore they can force the Management into getting whatever they want for absorption in BSNL/MTNL. But we are aware that BSNL Management's repeated efforts to goad them to accept the offers are bound to fail. At least now, the Management should realize the danger of allowing these officers to continue in BSNL positions, when they have explicitly declared that they are not worried about the interests of BSNL and would want to extract their pound of flesh whatever be the financial position of BSNL. On the other hand, the Management should trust the 2 lakhs and odd employees who have been absorbed in BSNL and have been deprived of a number of financial entitlements in the name of bad financial position of BSNL but still continue to put in their best to see BSNL out of the red.

5. **Relieving of the repatriated officers is now a foregone conclusion because of the Delhi High Court deadline to relieve them before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and cannot be delayed for ever. Instead of postponing any anticipated crisis, let the management take the absorbed employees of BSNL into confidence to face the challenge.**

6. We would therefore earnestly appeal to you to kindly review the situation and order relieving of the repatriated officers immediately rather than waiting till the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 fixed by the Hon'ble Court, since half-hearted and unwilling discharge of work by these officers will only result in further deterioration of the conditions in BSNL.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Rakesh Sethi)  
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Shri Manmohan Singh,  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
2. Shri R.Chandrasekhar,  
Secretary, DoT
3. Shri R.K.Upadhyay,  
CMD, BSNL.