

***Resolution adopted in the 9th All India Conference of BSNLEU,
on the deferment of the indefinite strike from 03.12.2018.***

This 9th All India Conference of BSNLEU heartily congratulates the entire BSNL employees for creating tremendous pressure on the government, through the massive country wide mobilisations for the strike, which was to start from 03.12.2018. It is only due to this pressure, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, who had been avoiding to meet the unions and associations for the past 9 months, was compelled to invite the AUAB for talks.

The indefinite strike from 03.12.2018 has been deferred. Initially, on 02.12.2018 evening, the strike was deferred for one week. Subsequently, on 03.12.2018, after discussion with the Minister, the strike was deferred until further intimation.

The AUAB was invited for talks in the afternoon of 02.12.2018, by the Secretary, Telecom, wherein it was informed that the Hon'ble MoS(C), would meet the AUAB at 10:00 am on 03.12.2018. Hence, with a view to create a conducive atmosphere for the talks to be held with the Hon'ble MoS(C), the strike was deferred for a week. The decision to defer the strike, for holding talks with the Hon'ble MoS(C), is a correct one. Even if we go ahead with the strike from 03.12.2018, after 3 or 4 days, again we have to go to the same Hon'ble MoS(C) for settling the issues, since he is the person, who has to take the Wage Revision and allotment of 4G spectrum issues for the approval of the Cabinet.

Talks were held with the Hon'ble MoS(C) on 03.12.2018, wherein settlement is reached on allotment of 4G spectrum and payment of pension contribution on actual basic pay. The issue of 4G spectrum is now going for Cabinet approval. DoT is seriously taking steps to get the approval of finance ministry, for payment of pension contribution on actual basic pay. As regards the pension revision of BSNL retirees, for the first time, the Minister has accepted that pension revision of BSNL retirees would be de-linked from pay revision of the serving employees.

In fact, the DoT had already started taking serious steps on these issues, immediately after the AUAB issued strike notice on 15.11.2018. Settlement of 4G spectrum and payment of pension contribution issues is a very big achievement for the financial revival of BSNL. We should not underestimate these achievements. Further, it is also very important to consolidate these gains. It means, immediately getting Cabinet approval for allotment of 4G spectrum and Finance Ministry's approval for pension contribution on actual basic pay, are very essential. All these demands have taken a definite shape in the DoT, which has already moved the other nodal Ministries, for their clearance.

On the issue of wage revision, no final settlement is reached. But, improvement is certainly there. So far, the DoT had been taking a negative position that, BSNL employees cannot be given wage revision. However, our massive preparations for the indefinite strike have forced them to change their stand. In the meeting held on 03.12.2018, both the Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications, as well as the DoT officers told that, they were prepared to consider settling wage revision, but 15% fitment could not be given. They argue that BSNL will not be able to pay salary, if 3rd Pay Revision is settled with 15% fitment. In the talks held on 02.12.2018, between the CMD BSNL and the AUAB, the former has accepted to increase Management's contribution to the Pension Fund by 3% by March, 2019, and the remaining portion in the next financial year.

The view of the AUAB is that some more discussion needs to be held with the DoT. Especially, when the DoT has agreed to put in place an institutional mechanism, for the periodical review of the settlement of the issues. In view of the above stated developments, the AUAB has decided to defer the strike. This All India Conference, after threadbare discussion, welcomes the decision of the AUAB. This Conference also congratulates the AUAB for making a breakthrough on the issues of allotment of 4G spectrum, Payment of Pension Contribution on actual basic pay and Pension Revision. At the same time, this Conference resolves to request the AUAB to go ahead with the strike, if the wage revision issue is not settled within a reasonable time.

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