

UNITED FORUM OF MTNL UNIONS & ASSOCIATIONS
[Room no. 756, Kidwai Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi-110001]

Letter no. UFOM/2010-11

Date: 22-09-2010

To,
Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister
South Block, RAISINA HALL
New Delhi 110001

Subject : Pension and job security are threatened as MTNL is in red-financially.

R/Sir,

Most respectfully we submit the following for your kind and sympathetic consideration :-

1. We represent the employees and officers of the Department of Telecommunication (DOT) enmass transferred to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) so as to facilitate the implementation of the policy of the Government of India to restructure the telecom sector of our country. We also represent the similarly placed employees and officers who have since retired from the MTNL service after enmass transfer.
2. We were recruited by DOT and we served mostly in DOT. Almost at the fag end of our service life we were made to be absorbed in MTNL as stated above. The absorption process which were to be completed in three phases has been left incomplete. In the first phase, the Group C and Group D employees of DOT were abosorbed, In the second phase, the group B officers of DOT and the officers promoted there from were absorbed in MTNL simultaneously with the similarly placed officers of DOT who were absorbed in BSNL on 1.10.2000. In the third phase of the absorption process, Group A officers of DOT were to be absorbed either in MTNL or BSNL. But this could not completed despite repeated attempts. The target dates were repeatedly deferred on one plea or the other. Thus the

absorption process which was the part and parcel of the Govt. policy of restructuring the telecom sector was abandoned openendedly.

3. It is important to note that when we were made to confront with the absorption process, we were threatened that if we did not opt for absorption either in MTNL or in BSNL we shall be declared as 'surplus' and would be dumped in the surplus cell of the Govt of India as the 'deemed deputation status' would not continue for long.. But the Group A officers of DOT who managed to frustrate the absorption process by virtue of their occupying the policy making positions in DOT are still on the DOT roll while working in MTNL and BSNL for decades together with the so called deemed deputation status.
4. The Govt policy of restructuring the telecom sector and consequent upon ensuring that the Govt owned PSU units provide efficient telecom services in competition with the newly inducted private sectors in this field has been totally frustrated due to inept handling of the absorption process.
5. Both MTNL and BSNL were created out of the same Govt department i.e., DOT and under the same Govt policy of restructuring telecom sector. The absorption of JAOs/JTOs and Group B officers of DOT in MTNL and BSNL was done simultaneously on 1.10.2000. But DOT does not treat MTNL and BSNL on equal footing. The DOT's approach towards MTNL is different from what is to BSNL.
6. MTNL is the victim of halfhearted implementation of Govt policy of restructuring. MTNL is the victim of discriminatory approach of DOT. After lapse of more than decades, the situation that has emerged is that MTNL - the Govt owned telecom service provider of two important Metros of India i.e. Delhi and Mumbai is on the verge of total collapse. Today MTNL is in red financially. MTNL has so far paid Govt dues and taxes through its noses. Now it appears to be approaching to bankruptcy. Its reserves have been totally depleted. It has started borrowing money from the outside sources to pay the salary and pension. The situation will be further drifted in the days and months to come.
7. It is not that DOT/Govt is unaware of this. They have been apprised from time to time at different levels on various occasions. But they remain unmoved.
8. Along with MTNL, the DOT recruited officers and employees who

were virtually pressurized to take part in the absorption process fell victim. Now they have been thrown to the deep den of uncertainty and insecurity. Among them those who have since retired are even in worse condition at their advanced ages. Their pension is paid by MTNL from the wage and salary heads as if in their long drawn service which is mostly in the Government Department (DOT), no pension contributions have been made. Now they are threatened with the consequences where pension can be stopped any day. At this old and ailing phase of their life, they have been deprived of the CGHS facility and put into the very vulnerable and pathetic situation. Certainly this is not the objectives the implementation of Govt policy of telecom restructuring aims at. Then why it has turned to be like this? Who are responsible for this?

9. Most irony is that in today's situation those who are in high echelon of the DOT set up are in the most convenient position financially and otherwise for their success in frustrating the wholesome and effective implementation of the Govt. policy of telecom restructuring whereas the employees and the Group B officers of DOT who were made involved in restructuring are threatened with the insecurity and uncertainty.

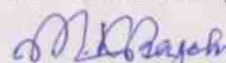
10. In view of the situation stated above we ardently appeal to your kind honour to kindly and urgently intervene to :-

- (1) Stop discrimination against MTNL and MTNL's absorbed employees, executives and retirees.
- (2) Stop irregular practice of payment of pension and pensionary benefits of the absorbed employees and executives (since retired) from the wage and salary heads of MTNL. Instead DOT should pay the pension and other pensionary dues as it is done in the case of BSNL. DOT can not and should not evade its responsibilities to its employees and officers simply because they have been pushed to the fold MTN in the name of half-baked restructuring.
- (3) Complete the absorption process including all sections of officers for honest and full implementation of Govt. policy of restructuring scheme immediately or allow us to get out of this scheme and revert back to DOT set up so that we also can continue to work with the deemed deputation status till end.

Hope, your kind self would appreciate our position and save us from this situation.

Thanking you,


Yours faithfully,

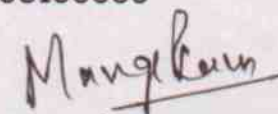

(M.K. BAGCHI)
Convener

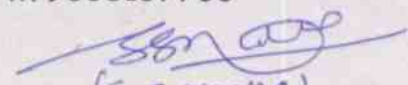
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|--|-------------------|
| 1) Sh. A. Raja, Hon'ble Minister of Communication and IT | { For information |
| 2) Sh. R. Chandrashekhar, Secretary, D O T | { and necessary |
| 3) Sh. Kuldeep Singh CMD MTNL | { action please/ |
| 4) Smt. Anita Soni Director Finance MTNL | { |

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