

# FORUM OF MTNL UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

T-28A, Atul Grove Road, New Delhi-110001

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MS-54/FORUM/2024/25

Date:07.12.2024

To

**Shri Neeraj Mittal,**

Secretary,

Department of Telecommunications,

Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi.

**Sub: Urgent Request to Safeguard the Future of MTNL Employees Amidst Service Transition to BSNL—Request for Meeting**

Respected Sir,

We, the Forum of MTNL Unions and Associations, wish to express our grave concern over the ongoing transition of MTNL services to BSNL and the lack of concrete measures to safeguard the future of MTNL employees during this process.

An agreement was signed by MTNL on **14th November 2024**, based on the Cabinet decision and recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries, which mandated that BSNL would take over the operation and maintenance of MTNL services. However, contrary to the agreement, critical revenue-generating streams such as FTTH, leased lines, and mobile customers are being unlawful migrated to BSNL. This deviation from the agreed terms undermines the operational stability of MTNL, leaving it with no revenue sources to sustain itself.

It is worth noting that similar agreements were signed in the past but were not implemented in their true spirit. This history of non-implementation has further eroded the trust of employees, who now face significant uncertainty about their future. Additionally, no permanent safeguards have been established for MTNL employees, with all arrangements remaining temporary and inadequate to address their long-term concerns.

The Cabinet's decision to allocate 1851 crore for the upgradation of MTNL services and to facilitate the transition has not been utilized as intended. The absence of investment in service improvement has led to a drastic decline in MTNL's revenue and operational efficiency, exacerbating the challenges faced by employees.

Despite these setbacks, MTNL employees have consistently demonstrated their dedication by implementing every directive from the Government and management with sincerity. Unfortunately, their commitment has not been reciprocated with measures to ensure their welfare and job security. Employees now fear that without a revenue base, MTNL will be unable to meet its obligations for salary payments and other benefits, placing their livelihoods at grave risk.

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In light of these developments, we strongly urge the Department of Telecommunications to:

1. **Assume Responsibility for Employees Welfare:** The Government must take full responsibility for the timely payment of salaries and benefits to MTNL working/retired employees in accordance with their terms of employment.
2. **Develop a Permanent Roadmap:** A comprehensive and permanent solution must be devised to safeguard the future of MTNL employees, including provisions for option for absorption into BSNL and repatriation to DOT.
3. **Utilize Allocated Funds:** Immediate steps should be taken to utilize the allocated Rs. 1851 crore funds for the upgradation of MTNL services to enhance its operational viability and protect employees' interests.

The employees of MTNL have continuously upheld their responsibilities and met expectations, but their patience and trust are being tested by the current uncertainty. If a permanent solution is not implemented at the earliest, it may lead to industrial unrest, which would be detrimental to all stakeholders.

We request an urgent meeting with your esteemed office and the CMD, MTNL, to discuss these critical issues and work towards a viable resolution that secures the future of MTNL employees.

We are hopeful for your immediate intervention in this matter to alleviate the growing apprehensions among the employees and ensure the smooth progression of the service transition.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely,



**V.K. TOMAR**

(Chairman & Genl. Secy. (MEA))



**DHARM RAJ SINGH**

(Convener & Genl. Secy. (MTNL-MS))

**Copy to:**

**Shri Robert A Ravi J**

CMD, MTNL,

MTNL Corporate Office, New Delhi.

Director (HR), Director (FIN), Director (Tech.)

MTNL Corporate Office, New Delhi.

Executive Director, MTNL Delhi/Mumbai