



# Sanchar Nigam Executives' Association (India)

Central Head Quarters, New Delhi

Ph.011-25934899 E-mail:sneachq@yahoo.com

All communications addressed  
to the General Secretary

K. Sebastin, General Secretary  
"SNEA Bhavan", B 11/1&2,  
Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015  
09868266200 (Mob.) 25191276 (Res)  
E-mail:ksebastin@gmail.com

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To

**Shri Narendra Modi Ji,  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.**

**Sub: Abject humiliation and scorn met out to BSNL by myopic, prejudiced and unprofessional government Babus, particularly of DIT, hosts of "Digital India Launch", not even having remotest inkling of how and who has built massive Telecom infrastructure in the Country, at the launch of "Digital India week".**

**Respected Sir,**

We write this letter with utter disgust and contempt because of abject display of political apathy and unpardonable bureaucratic intolerance of Big Babus of DIT and DOT towards BSNL at the recent launch of the Digital India week. BSNL performs the crucial task of upgrading the country's telecom infrastructure in a truly exemplary and unprecedented manner, yet the disregard shown to it at the inauguration puts into perspective how much the government and the bureaucracy really values its contributions.

Last week, at the inauguration of the Digital India week, while the stage was replete with private industrialists, **many of whom had no inkling of a connection with the event itself, the CMD of BSNL had been relegated to the rows much farther back, well out of the purview of any media and public attention whatsoever.** This action of the organizers of the event, DIT, even after knowing about the intrinsic value that was added to the Digital India week by BSNL's priceless efforts, was emblematic of the growing government apathy towards public sector institutions. While the CMD of BSNL was banished to the lower echelons, private sectors CEOs, such as Anil Ambani, who's company RCom has deliberately breached telecom policies, with impunity and held the country to virtual ransom through such naked policy breaches, were given centre stage to propagate their capitalist agenda. Sunil Mittal, CEO of Airtel who, along with Idea and Vodafone, continue to breach existing 3G policies of the government, in the most blatant and unethical business way, was also given lots of screen time. This of course has not surprised those tracking telecom developments in the country closely, given the huge political patronage that these policy breachers have been getting from the governments from time to time and this was no exception which one thought would be.

BSNL was, by far, the single largest contributor to Digital India week with an investment totalling nearly Rs 30,000 crores towards building of massive and widespread infrastructure and this investment has remained largely uncompensated because of unwavering and consistent commitment of BSNL to meet social obligation objectives of telecom policies of the government, notably **"universal service at affordable costs"**. Surely this amounts to more than what irrelevant guests at the inauguration like Tom Enders and Pawan Munjal would have coughed up in terms of investment towards the project. **This refusal to provide any recognition to BSNL's tireless efforts to get this project off the ground and instead shamelessly placating the inflated egos of these private sector CEO's has demoralized, angered and agitated members of this Association in BSNL. It is**

**unwarranted actions like these which lend huge credence to the metaphoric phrase 'Suit boot waali sarkar' which has, in recent times, been used often by the media.**

Without the indefatigable efforts of BSNL employees and the management, the telecom infrastructure in this country would still be in its infancy. The financial profits we have had to forego at the cost of the social upliftment of the countless rural regions in India, in terms of telecom connectivity and the related services it enables, is massive. If you were to ask any one of your friends to provide such a service at even a fraction of the cost, what they would say in reply to such a question is well known to both, you and us. The root of this problem lies in the bureaucratic attitude that takes functioning of CPSUs such as BSNL for granted. The investment BSNL made towards the establishment of a modern telecom infrastructure in the country, in terms of optical fibre networks, telephone exchanges, cables, switches etc. is one of the main reasons why something like the Digital India week could be thought of in the first place. The benefaction of BSNL to the Digital India project is much too large to ignore. Sadly, Dear sir, that is exactly what your Big Babus of the government on whom you have been relying and leaning so heavily have done.

**Your dream of Digital India would have been impossible to even conceptualize but for exemplary and unparalleled efforts of BSNL in terms of pumping in more than Rs 30,000 crores towards building of massive telecom infrastructure in the remotest parts of the country. This infrastructure today is the cornerstone of "Digital India". Also, your rhetoric that your government stands for the poor of the Country gets further eroded by ignoring BSNL, and eulogizing private sector, at the event, since BSNL is the only telecom provider that has met the aspirations of the poorest of the poor in remotest parts of the Country and has alleviated their social status in the process by enabling the advent of services that follow in the wake of telecom connectivity and the massive telecom revolution that its participation in rural India has set about.**

**We, at BSNL, out rightly and unequivocally condemn such predisposed private sector ideology of the government, by undermining and denigrating BSNL, and the appeasement policy followed towards private sector CEO's that resulted in such an act in the first place. Maybe if our babus weren't so obsessed on cushy post-retirement jobs with the regulatory and other bodies of the government, sponsored, lobbied and pushed through largely by the private sector, they would realize the role of BSNL in building the country and taking it towards a more progressive future, something they can't be accused of taking an active part in.**

With regards,  
Sincerely Yours,



(K. Sebastin)  
General Secretary

06/7/2015

**Copy to:**

1. Shri. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon MOC&IT for information & n/a please.
2. Shri. Pradeep Kumar Sinha, Cabinet Secretary, Govt of India for information & n/a pl.
3. Shri. R. S. Sharma, Secretary/ Deity for information & n/a please.
4. Shri. Rakesh Garg, Secretary/DOT for information & n/a please.
5. Shri. Anupam Shrivastava, CMD/BSNL for information please.
6. Shri. A. N. Rai, DIR(EB), BSNL Board for information please.
7. Shri. N. K. Gupta, DIR(CFA), BSNL Board for information please.
8. Shri. N. K. Mehta, ED(CA&IT), BSNL for information please.
9. Smt. Sujata Ray, ED(Fin), BSNL for information please.
10. Shri. Mohd Ashraf Khan, ED(NB), BSNL for information please.