

# Telecom Executives' Association of MTNL

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To  
Shri Kapil Sibal ji,  
Hon'ble Minister ( C & IT ),  
Sanchar Bhawan,  
20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110018

**Subject :- Merger of MTNL & BSNL**

Hon'ble Sir,

MTNL and BSNL was created so as to give effect the policy of the Government to restructure the telecom set up of our country. This was aimed at creating an opportunity for private investment in the area of installation, maintenance, operation and providing service to our countrymen side by side and in competition with the Government owned companies like MTNL and BSNL. The very purpose of retaining MTNL and BSNL as the service provider in parallel with the private telecom companies is to provide the safety valve so that the private telecom companies can not make profiteering in collusion with one another.

No doubt, the pioneering policy of the then Congress led Government has unleashed the long due telecom boom in our country. But one basic malady that took place is that none of the Government owned companies i.e., MTNL and BSNL has been allowed to provide PAN INDIA service. Over the years this phenomenon has crippled the ability of MTNL and BSNL to compete with the competitors in the field effectively.

The only solution to this malady is to merge MTNL and BSNL and make eligible to provide PAN INDIA telecom service under the same roof and through the single counter. Therefore, there is no wonder that the proposal of such merger has been raised time and again.

But a strong coterie of vested interests who very often work as a conduit to provide clandestine interests of the private telecom competitors has opposed the move on one plea or the other. It is a well-known fact that during the regime of NDA Government at the centre, there was strong move to disinvest MTNL completely. May be that this coterie, by opposing the merger, is trying to keep the said option open for a convenient opportunity in future.

On trade union front, there was some noise about the discrepancies that exist on HR issues in BSNL vis-à-vis MTNL. It is nobody's business to question the need for similar service conditions

of the employees of MTNL and BSNL including pay scales and pension etc. This is legitimate particularly because the employees of both MTNL and BSNL are of originally DOT recruits. Therefore, it is needed to get rid of such discrepancies in any case. This should be done even if there was no proposal or need for merger. But here again, to use such discrepancies as a bogey against the proposal for such an important issue like merger of MTNL and BSNL is indeed a shortsighted approach. It sounds as if, had there been no proposal for merger, one could have sit comfortably over such issues. Again, to put up proposal such as that these discrepancies should be got rid of first and then only merger should take place, is nothing but to put the cart before the horse. One should take lesson from merger of Air India and Indian Airlines. Good sense and foresight should prevail over orthodox approach.

Hon'ble sir, your goodself has correctly identify the maladies that are ailing both MTNL and BSNL and accordingly the agenda for GoM has been fixed. The erstwhile DOT employees of both MTNL and BSNL are holding their breath to pray for the total success of your mission. The success of your mission including the merger of MTNL and BSNL etc will go a long way to save the interests of MTNL and BSNL and their employees.

We strongly support such move.

With regards

Yours faitfully,



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