

## **Perils of Disunity!**

The two days strike by BSNLEU began on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009 with the support of 30% of employees only. It was a big flop throughout the country except in West Bengal, Kerala and North East circles. In Chennai telephones and Tamil nadu circle merely 27% of employees participated in the strike. Even in West Bengal and Kerala nearly 30% of employees rejected the strike call given by united forum. In the BSNL corporate office at New Delhi nearly 99% of staff attended duty on the first day of the strike. In Northern telecom region, Haryana and Jharkhand circles the strike call was almost ignored by the employees. The shocking fact is nearly 25% of BSNLEU membership did not participate in the strike and attended office. In Maharastra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh strike call was overwhelmingly rejected by the employees. In Kolar SSA(Karnataka) merely 20 employees were on the strike out of 250. Similarly nearly 35 employees participated out of 640 employees in Akola SSA (Maharastra). The most surprising thing was the entire staff of Kolcutta stores rejected the strike call.

Disappointed at the very poor response to their strike call the office bearers of BSNLEU indulged in violence at some places. They abused the women employees in vulgar language for attending office in Chennai and other places. Instead of organizing the workers for the strike they tried to close entry gates of exchanges and customer service centers.

Probably Com. Namboodri would have realized by now the perils of disunity. He would also learned lessons in a hard way that recognition alone will solve the problem of employees. The flop of the two day strike must be an eye opener to BSNLEU and united forum that without the participation of NFTE-BSNL and FNT0 no successful strike is possible in BSNL. Only by uniting all employees/ unions one could compel the management to settle the demands of the employees including wage revisions.

**Com Namboodri was intoxicated with three successive victories and continues status as recognized union for the last five years. He disrespected the unrecognized unions and tried to finish them by harassing their membership through mass transfers and denial of basic trade union facility to all the unrecognized unions. This has created bitterness and enmity among the base level employees and finally vitiated the atmosphere for a joint struggle. No doubts the sole beneficiary of this disunity is the management and Govt of India. But BSNLEU is not understanding this wrong approach. It is interested only in petty minded divisive activities which stands in the way for an all out unity among the BSNL employees.**

**Had BSNLEU/United forum consulted the NFTE-BSNL/ Workers Alliance before serving the strike notice a united struggle would have emerged. If Com. Namboodri agreed to the demand for joint negotiation with wage revision committee this worst situation would not have come. Com. Namboodri's miscalculation and wrong assessment landed him in this fiasco. If negotiating with the management is BSNLEU's prerogative right then how its expect other unions to help it by joining struggle. It can't have the cake and eat too. The unity on the wall is very clear. Will BSNLEU change course from its suicidal journey? After the poor response from the two day strike and glaring disunity among the unions will the BSNL management ever bother about the employees? It is sacred duty of every trade union leader in BSNL to unite all employees for a militant and massive strike action to protect the future of the employees and company as well.**

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