

Verification to elect a "Minority" union in BSNL?.

With all humility and sincerity the NFTE-BSNL has accepted the results of the 5th Membership verification. NFTE-BSNL could consistently maintain its vote share of 35 percent from 1st to 5th verification with or without any alliance. Although the membership verification in BSNL is being conducted to elect a "Majority" union to represent the Non-executive employees every two years, this time also BSNLEU has emerged winner only with 46 percentage of votes which is very much below the 51 percentage of votes to claim Majority union status. The out dated "Code of discipline" followed by the BSNL management and the adamant attitude of the BSNLEU to accept for any change in the existing code of discipline are the root cause for this. That is why NFTE-BSNL has already approached the High Court in Madras seeking necessary modifications in the existing code of discipline so that a second union is recognized in BSNL if the first union did not get the support of more than 51 percentage. We hope the High court of Madras will deliver its judgment in the said case at the earliest. Meanwhile another union has also filed a writ petition in Kerala High court at Earnakulam seeking modifications in the existing code of discipline. The Kerala High court has already passed an interim order that the results of the 5th Membership verification will be subjected to the final outcome of the said writ petition. We hope the outcome of the High court cases will democratize the method of extending trade union recognition in BSNL.

BSNLEU has boasted on the eve of the 5th Membership verification that it has 1,25,000 paid membership in BSNL. But the results shows that atleast 19,000 members have deserted BSNLEU union in this election. But NFTE-BSNL had improved its performance despite FNTTO left our alliance and some of our disgruntled leaders betrayed us at the behest of BSNLEU. We are thankful to all our alliance partners for their good help and support. Particularly we convey our sincere thanks to the young comrades of SNATTA who braved the black mails and threats of BSNLEU and work very hard to garner support to NFTE-BSNL. Despite the wild money power of the recognized union we could win eleven telecom circles including Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Jharkand, Chennai telephones, Punjab, Chatisgarh, Haryana, Jammu& Kashmir, NTR-Delhi, ALTTC-Ghaziabad.

The results of the fifth membership has only proved the strength and reach of the NFTE-BSNL throughout the country. Hence there is no cause for any pessimism. NFTE-BSNL will move on like a caravan unmindful of the setbacks in the 5th membership verification and will discharge its duties as a responsible trade union to protect the interest of the working people. Let us move forward with hope.

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