

SANCHAR NIGAM EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION

KERALA CIRCLE

(Largest Association of Executives in BSNL)
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No.SNEA/Kerala/2021/9

dated 9th June 2021

To

The CGMT

BSNL, Kerala Circle

Respected Sir,

Sub: – Request to take-up the issues and suggestions with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala for settlement/solution - reg

We came to know from media that Chief Minister of Kerala has scheduled a meeting with Telecom Service Providers to discuss availability of Internet services on 10-06-2021.

In this regard, kindly take-up following issues and suggestions with Hon. Chief Minister for settlement/solution.

- 1) Exclusive LCOs - cable drawing rates through KSEB posts – parity with LCOs
- 2) New FTTH / ADSL Plan for students
- 3) Real Estate Monetization for WNH (Work Near Home)
- 4) Earmarking of BSNL as utility Services similar to KWA / KSEBL
- 5) Exempt from Criminal Proceedings of BSNL Officials – Delay in the payment of Property Tax, case of certain LSGs

1. ELCO - cable drawing rates through KSEB posts at par with LCOs

As you are aware the major portion of BSNL FTTH connections are being provided by exclusive LCOs. At present they are forced to remit higher KSEB pole rent than that of other local cable TV operators. The Government of Kerala issued orders to reduce the pole rent for drawing fiber optic cables through KSEBL poles vide GO (MS) NO.9/2021/POWER dated at TVM the 26.02.2021. However KSEBL is restricting the benefit of this government order only to Cable TV operators and Govt. Agencies (Vide KSEBL Letter No. D (D&IT)/D5/Cable-Poles/2020-21/0006 dated 22.03.2021). Kindly take-up this matter with the Government to extend these benefits to BSNL's exclusive Local Cable Operators also.

2. New FTTH / ADSL Plan for students

Taking into account the prevailing market conditions and socio-economic affairs of the students, following New FTTH / ADSL Plan is suggested for Students in Kerala.

Plan FMC: Rs 249/-

Tax (GST @ 18% & KFC @ 1%): Rs 47.31/-

Total FMC Including Tax: Rs 296.31/-

Speed: 10 Mbps

Data Usage: Unlimited @ 10 Mbps without any FUP limit

(ONT / ADSL Modem charges as applicable)

First Preference: FTTH

Alternative Preference: ADSL

To provide these plans to students we may also suggest to waive off the charges for drawing cables through KSEB posts.

3. Real Estate Monetization for WNH

In the recent budget, Kerala government has declared work-near-home (WNH) facilities for IT firms to provide office arrangements within the neighbourhood of employees, so that office work flows can be maximized with minimum risk to the employee's health. BSNL's vacant building spaces are most suitable for IT professionals envisaged by the government as WNH as they are easily accessible, and equipped with internet connectivity and power supply. It is requested to bring this information to the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister, as there is huge potential for revenue generation using our vacant real estate assets.

4. Earmarking of BSNL as utility Services similar to KWA / KSEBL

It is pointed out that the DPR for the Road and similar developments do not have any provision for granting utility shifting charges to BSNL whereas KWA and KSEB do receive utility shifting charges properly. BSNL has been denied the shifting charges by various agencies misconstruing the MORTH circular dated 22.08.2016 where it is meant for long distance optical fiber cable network laid by private telecom companies. BSNL, which is still a utility emergency service and catering the essential need of general public and government offices in the form of basic phones and internet circuits, is dependent fully on precious copper cable which was laid years back. At this crucial financial crunch, BSNL would not be able to continue to provide the services without the support of these developmental agencies. It is pertinent to note the contribution of BSNL in the past during the time of calamities and

emergencies. Necessary fund may be earmarked for shifting the assets of BSNL in the DPR for various projects in line with the state run agencies like KWA and KSEB

5. Exempt from Criminal Proceedings of BSNL Officials – Delay in the payment of Property Tax, case of certain LSGs

Since BSNL was facing financial crisis, during 2018-2019, for some cases the property tax payment could be arranged from the BSNL corporate office, New Delhi, only during the fag end of March 2018 and 2019. Due to some mismatching of account transfer and other technical hitches the payments were materialized only in the first week of April, surpassing the deadline for the financial year. To achieve hundred percent collection efficiency of taxes some of the LSGs had initiated revenue recovery proceedings well before the deadline of tax payments. Without trusting the sincerity and social commitments of the officials of this PSU wholly owned by the central government, which was a central government department (DoT) a few years back, some Panchayats had resorted to file criminal cases in the personal names of the local custodian of the property. Naturally in a few instances where the payment got delayed beyond 31st March, the criminal cases are processed further compelling our officers in the rank of General Managers to appear physically in various courts to take bail and proceed further. Since the court proceedings have started, the amounts received by various LSGs on account of delayed property taxes are kept in the suspense accounts, and the LSGs are not able to withdraw the cases either. Since BSNL had released the payments in time, we are not in a position to pay the penalty compounding fee to settle the cases out of court. Necessary guidance from the government may be given to the LSG regarding fair dealing with BSNL in this aspect.

Thanking You,

Sincerely Yours



Jithesh K P

Circle Secretary

SNEA Kerala Circle