

# **UNITED FORUM OF MTNL UNIONS & ASSOCIATIONS**

[D-14, Telegraph Square, Doctor Lane, Gol Mkt, New Delhi-110001]

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Ref. no. UFOM/2010-11

Date: 09-11-2010

Nearly Fifteen thousands of MTNL employees, executives and retirees will hold MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION on 09.11.2010 (Lunch Hour) at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi as the first part of their PROTEST ACTIONS against the discriminatory actions and attitudes of the D O T and the Govt. of India against MTNL, MTNL employees and MTNL retirees.

In Mumbai also, MTNL employees and executives and retirees will hold MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION area wise to protest against the said discrimination under the banner of UNITED FORUM OF MTNL UNIONS & EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATIONS.

The PROTEST ACTIONS include the following programmes :-

# Protest Demonstration on 09.11.2010

# Rally and submission of Memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister On 18.11.2010

# Non-cooperation w.e.f. 18.11.2010.

The Notice has been issued to this effect to MTNL Management and DOT on 15.10.2010 with copies to all concerned by United Forum of MTNL Unions and Associations. The sixteen unions and associations of MTNL employees and executive officers as well as the association of MTNL retirees have come together under the banner of this United Forum of MTNL Unions & Associations to spearhead the programme of PROTEST ACTIONS. The pressing demands are :

### **DEMANDS**

- @ Stop Discrimination against MTNL, MTNL employees & MTNL retirees.
- @ Pension and related dues of MTNL retirees should be paid only by DOT as in the case of BSNL retirees.
- @ MTNL should be adequately compensated for the damage it has suffered for bearing the liabilities of DOT so far
- @ If DOT/Govt is not in a position to complete the absorption process, the absorbees should be allowed to revert back to DOT and continue to work in MTNL on deemed deputation basis.

### **DOT & Govt made MTNL financially unviable**

The Govt has pumped out almost Rs 40 thousand crores from the MTNL coffer on various accounts. It has used MTNL as a fund raising vehicle but it has not cared a little about MTNL's health. Recently MTNL has to pay to the Govt. Rs 6564 Crore for 3G spectrum and Rs 4533.97 Crore for BWA spectrum. MTNL has done this under duress.

The DOT recruited employees and officers who were made to be absorbed in MTNL almost 12 years before were assured of Government Pension. They were assured of similar treatment as in BSNL in this respect. But now they are being denied the various benefits of Govt. Pension such as, pension from the Govt. fund and to be paid by the Govt. as it is in BSNL. The periodical revision of pension as it is normally done in all other cases of the Govt departments. Instead, DOT/Govt has unduly compelled MTNL to pay the pension and thus put a huge burden to the tune of Rs 1000 Crore per annum on MTNL most unjustifiably.

**MTNL Provided with ill-motivated & defunct Management by DOT/Govt :**

MTNL which is now owned by the Govt to the extent of 56% was constituted 25 years before by curbing out of DOT the two most important Metro Districts i.e., Delhi and Mumbai. The employees and the officers of DOT then working in Delhi and Mumbai were made to be absorbed in MTNL in 1998 and 2000 respectively. But the DOT/Govt has struck the compromising understanding with the Sr.level officers who are holding the key positions from time to time and thus kept them so far under the DOT roll. Thus the various important level of managements of MTNL are being manned by the officers who have preferred not to be absorbed in MTNL and this situation continues for more than a decade. They don't have a sense of belonging to MTNL and they are visibly disinterested in MTNL. The DOT/Govt has intentionally allowed this duality and dubious control of MTNL causing a serious damage to MTNL internally.

This ill-motivated,disinterested,directionless management who, as widely believed by the cross-section of employees and executives of MTNL, have skin deep loyalty and integrity is unquestionably responsible for failure of MTNL to come up with the competition.

The DOT/Govt is a silent spectator at this.

### DOT/Govt. is negligent & indifferent

The most unfortunate thing is that even though the issues involved have been raised by the various unions and associations at Delhi and Mumbai since long and MTNL management also reportedly took up the these issues with DOT/Govt., no serious efforts have been made by DOT/Govt so far to sort out these matters. As a result of this decade long negligent and indifferent attitude of the DOT/Govt. the following disastrous situation has been developed :-

- (1) MTNL is in red today to the extent that its reserve funds have since been fully depleted and MTNL now has to borrow the money from outside source to pay the salary and wages of its serving employees and executives and pension to the retirees.
- (2) MTNL is not in a position to invest adequately in the areas of required development, expansion and marketing etc. Obviously MTNL as a service provider is handicapped to compete with the other service providers in the field.
- (3) The top level management is visibly disinterested in MTNL as,even after decade, they are still on DOT roll,- thanks to the mishandling of absorption process by the DOT/Govt. These senior officers who are holding the key positions in the policy making of the operation, maintenance, development, finance and marketing etc are simply there to purchase their time in MTNL and for nothing else.
- (4) MTNL is heading steadily and very fast towards irreversible sickness threatening the serving employees and officers with their job security.MTNL retirees are threatened to be robbed of their rightful Govt Pension by the Govt and from the Govt funds as in the case of their counterparts in BSNL.

- 1 The ongong PROTEST ACTIONS is against the design and discriminatory actions of DOT/Govt to kill MTNL,to harm the MTNL employees, executives and retirees.
- 2 The ongoing Protest Actions are aimed at securing and protecting the functional and financial viability of MTNL and protect the job security of the serving employees and executives of MTNL and protect the rights of Government Pension for MTNL retirees as hitherto assured by the DOT/Govt.

sd/-  
( M.K.Bagchi )  
Convener

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**Subject :- Request for covering the programme of Massive  
Demonstration at Jantar Mantar during Lunch  
Hour of 9<sup>th</sup>. Nov.,2010.**

Sir,

**This United Forum of MTNL Unions and Associations has been constituted by 16 Unions and Associations of MTNL serving employees and executive officers as well as retirees of MTNL. The aims and objectives of the United Forum are**

- (1) To fight against the design and discrimination of DOT/Govt against MTNL and thus making MTNL financially and functionally unviable so that MTNL can be progressively restored to a position of effective functioning and capable of providing effective and affordable service.**
- (2) Thus to protect the job security to the 45000 serving employees and executive officers as well as to protect the rights of the retirees for the Government Pension to be paid by the Govt from the Govt funds.**

**Keeping these objectives in mind, we have decided to hold a Massive Demonstration at Delhi and Mumbai in the Lunch Hour of 9<sup>th</sup>.November,2010. In Delhi it will be held at Jantar Mantar.**

**We would request your esteemed media to cover this programme by sending your reporters and camera man.**

**Thanking you,**

**Yours faithfully,**

**( M. K. Bagchi )  
Convener**