

Wage Negotiation Committee Meeting Held on 13.08.2009

A meeting of the Wage Negotiation Committee was held on 13.08.2009. From the official side, Shri S.R. Kapoor, Chairman (Executive Director – Finance), Shri Ram Kumar (Executive Director – CN), Shri Shakeel Ahmad, GM (SR), Shri P.K. Purwar (GM – CA), Smt. Arundhati Panda (GM – EF), Shri D.P. De, (GM – Estt.) and Shri Kandpal (AGM – SR) were present. The staff side was represented by Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri (GS, BSNLEU), Com. P. Abhimanyu (Dy. GS, BSNLEU), Com. K.R. Yadav (Vice President, BSNLEU), Com. P. Asokababu (AGS, BSNLEU), Com. V. Subburaman (TEPU), Com. Suresh Kumar (BSNL MS), Com. D.P. Patwa (AIBCTES), Com. Hari Singh (BTU BSNL) and Com. Hakkam Singh (SNATTA).

At the outset, Shri Shakeel Ahmed, GM (SR) briefed the new members of the management side, on the deliberations that had so far taken place in the committee meetings. Thereafter, Shri V.A.N. Namboodiri, General Secretary, BSNLEU explained the demands of the Staff Side, on wage revision. He reiterated that the period of wage revision should be only 5 years and that there could be no compromise on it. Similarly, he demanded merger of 78.2% DA with basic pay as well as fitment at par with top executives. Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri firmly stated that when all the other PSUs are set to finalise a 5 year wage agreement, BSNL alone cannot go in for 10 year wage agreement. He emphatically demanded that the wages of casual and contract workers should also be revised.

The management side advanced many arguments for a ten year wage settlement. But all the arguments were exposed by the Staff Side representatives. Thereafter, the Chairman stated that the issues raised by the staff side would be discussed internally by the management and thereafter further discussion would take place with the staff side.

This meeting of the wage revision committee has taken place after a gap of nearly 2 ½ months. However, there was no fresh proposal from the management side. They are determined to impose only their terms and conditions on the workers. They are not prepared to consider any of the reasoning of the staff side. Hence, the meeting held on 13.08.2009, has ended as another ritual. Only the mighty struggle of the BSNL workers can open the deaf ears of the management. Prepare for the strike with full vigour.
