



All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Central Headquarter, New Delhi

(The Recognised Representative Association of BSNL)

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GS/AIGETOA/2021/01

Dated 02.01.2021

To,

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Ji,
Hon'ble Minister of Communication,
Government of India, New Delhi-110001

Subject: Inclusion of BSNL officials as frontline worker for initial vaccine beneficiaries of Covid-19.

Respected Sir,

Greetings of the New Year Sir!

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to the Government of India for tackling the pandemic of Covid-19 in most efficient way, which resulted in timely check of the spread of contamination as well as minimizing the affects of the pandemic in comparison to other parts of the world from one of the deadliest virus reported in recent times.

We recall that how the initial periods affected all walks of the life severely across the world including our motherland India, where every citizen has to undergo a changed lifestyle and many services like Telecom, Health, Travel, Tourism, Education, Production, Different Businesses etc have to face serious challenges due to the pandemic. **But despite to all limitations, the people associated with emergency services rose to the occasions and fought like a warrior which includes Health, Telecom, Civil Defense Administration, Postal, Municipal Corporation etc. We feel proud to apprise that BSNL officials also worked shoulder to shoulder to other frontline workers in discharging their part of responsibility for the Nation and its People.** It is a credit to BSNL management and its work force that BSNL was able to provide optimum service to its customers during these testing times in spite of severe constraints. When people were indoor during lockdown to check contamination from spreading, the BSNL workers were moving to ensure people to people connect by keeping the network healthy, providing seamless connectivity to Covid Hospitals and Treatment Centers and fulfilling the telecom requirements of various government departments by risking their personal and family life. We were also at the forefront of the governments fight to ensure normalcy in this period by distributing SIMs to citizens returning on Vande Bharat missions, ensuring telecom facilities at polling and counting centers in poll bound states, meeting all exigencies etc.

In the course of discharging the responsibilities of a Telecom Warrior, a high percentage of BSNL staffs and officers got infected with Covid-19 and many of them succumbed to the disease and attained supreme sacrifice. Now it is being reported that that the Covid-19 vaccine is getting ready and the government is in the process of prioritizing targeted vaccine beneficiaries. It has come to our knowledge from various media reports that recently NEGVAC (National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration) panel has recommended to the government that population groups comprising of

Regn. No. : HR/019/2018/02138

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healthcare providers & workers, personnel from state & central police, armed forces, home guards, civil defense & disaster management volunteers, municipal workers and persons above 50 yrs etc be identified as prioritized vaccine beneficiaries in initial phase.

There is no clarity that BSNL workforce will also be identified as front line workers and made priority target population for the upcoming vaccination in first phase. It is important to note that telecom being an essential service, BSNL workforce did a splendid job against all odds during these tough times to help people stay connected and provide all necessary help in maintenance of other essential services. But it is being felt that the risks and sacrifices made by BSNL fraternity during the testing times of Covid-19 are getting unnoticed by the panel suggesting for prioritized target as initial vaccine beneficiaries.

Therefore, we request your good self to take cognizance of it and kindly use your good office for inclusion of BSNL fraternity in prioritized vaccine beneficiaries in initial phase, like other health or defense warriors, considering the contribution made by the BSNL warriors in the fight against Covid-19 and their sacrifice during course of their standing with the Nation and its People in one of the most difficult time. It will be a great help to these officials and motivate them to deliver their best in all times and completely follow the mantra of "Service before Self".

With Warm Regards

Sd/-
[MD. WASI AHMAD]
General Secretary

Copy for kind information please:

1. The Secretary, Dept of Telecom, Government of India, New Delhi.
2. The Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India, New Delhi.
3. The Chairman and Managing Director BSNL, BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi.
4. The Director (HR), BSNL Board, BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi.