



All India Graduate Engineers & Telecom Officers Association

Gujarat Telecom Circle, Ahmedabad

(Recognized Representative Association of BSNL)

Regn.No. HR/019/2018/02138

Circle President

Mayur Parmar

Mo:9428822833

Circle Secretary

C M Tamboliya

Mo:9426611976

Finance Secretary

Anurag Parmar

Mo:9426643043

No. AIGETO/Guj/2021/9

Dated: 19.03.2021

To

The Chief General Manager

Gujarat Telecom Circle

Ahmedabad-6

Sub: Deputing BSNL staff on General/State Assembly/Local election duty reg.

Respected Sir,

During the General Elections-2019, BSNL Gujarat had deputed its staff (executives and non-executives) for the election duty. Thereafter, again during Municipal Corporation election in Feb-2021, BSNL Gujarat had deputed its staff for election duty. **We do understand that performing election duty is a kind of service to the nation but there are some apprehensions regarding this, which we would like to submit here for your kind consideration.**

1. Before VRS, BSNL was having sufficient staff and deputing some of our staff for election duty during General election-2019 was not a big issue. Though we could have contested and denied sending our staff for election duty citing requirement of sufficient staff for providing telecom service, specifically during election, as telecom comes under essential service category but we prefer to send our staff for election duty. However, instead of deputing minimal staff, most of the staff including our field personals was also deputed for election duty which had created many issues in field at that time.
2. Further, we did the same the mistake again during Municipality elections held Feb-2021 wherein almost all the JTOs/JAOs of circle office were deputed for election duty despite knowing the fact that after VRS, BSNL itself is facing acute shortage of staff.

This time, even selection of staff for election duty was not fair and balanced as some of the sections were completely vacant as not a single JTO/JAO was available for routine work on election day. Further no SDE, DE and above level officers were deputed for election duty which showed partisan approach towards junior officers.

There had been instances where these JTOs/JAOs were called for duty by BSNL on the next day of election for some urgent work despite the fact that the next day was declared holiday for these deputed JTOs/JAOs, but unfortunately they had to come next day to perform their routine work after spending around continuous 48 to 64 hours in election duty.

There were some cases wherein the officers/officials had applied leave in advance on medical or some other ground and some of them were not even physically fit but still they were sent for election duty without taking their genuine grievances into consideration. **This would have been avoided by sending only few executives from each section so that none of the section would have remained vacant and no work would have been suffered.**



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3. Now after VRS, BSNL does not have sufficient staff, therefore it is requested to take up the matter with state authority representing that BSNL Gujarat cannot afford to depute its staff for any type of election duty due to some constraints and by stressing upon the need for keeping telecom staff ready for round the clock services during election time as telecom being essential service.

If the situation still warrants to depute the staff for election duty than the same should not be done arbitrarily by admin section, as done in Feb-21, but it must be done in consultation with all the vertical heads so as to keep some minimal staff in each section to avoid any interruption in day to day work and to render continuous services to our customers.

In this connection, it is our humble suggestion that a common meeting of management and representatives of all unions and associations may be called for discussion on this issue whenever such need arises, so that a collective and proper decision can be taken in the best interest of BSNL Gujarat Circle.

Hope above suggestions will be given due consideration and our apprehensions be represented to appropriate authority so that our services are not affected and at the same time, we can also serve the nation by performing election duty.

With regards,

[C M Tamboliya]
Circle Secretary