

## NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS

(National Forum of the Executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises)

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V K Tomar (MTNL) Secretary General

Dated-10-01-2022

Press Release \_\_\_\_\_\_Withdraw the decision to sell CEL to promote Atmanirbhar Bharath.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) empowered alternative mechanism for disinvestment is reported to have approved the sales of 100% equity of Central Electronics Ltd. (CEL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), for a paltry sum of Rs 210 Crores, to a private entity called Nandal Finance and Leasing Pvt Ltd. This private entity is a financial intermediary, which has clearly no competence, managerial or technological. It cannot be expected to bring technology and best management practices. The scientific community is concerned that CEL will be destroyed and ultimately dismantled by this company.

The proceeds from the strategic disinvestment of CEL will is a small amount for the Central Government. When compared to the real value of the assets sold in the case of CEL, this meager amount of Rs.210 Crores makes absolutely no sense. Today's market value of the 50-acre land CEL possesses in the National Capital Region (CEL's Annual Report for 2019-20) itself exceeds Rs 500 Crores. It is a profit making company and it has orders in the pipeline worth Rs. 1592 crores, and Rs 132 crores as collectible dues from the government agencies. The net effect of the sale is that the government as the owner of the CPSE will be surrendering its entitlement to such a vast asset base to Nandal Finance.

CEL was set up by the CSIR as a mechanism for indigenous technology development and technology commercialization. CEL has developed several products for the first time in the country through its own R&D efforts as well as in collaboration with CSIR and DRDO laboratories. CEL is contributing to frontier areas of electronics manufacturing, product development for strategic needs of defense and railways and solar photovoltaic business, which is a key area for indigenous technology development.

With 130 engineers of proven competence and other manpower resources available, in whom the S&T agencies and strategic departments have confidence; certainly the intrinsic value of intangibles of CEL has not been discovered by the Transaction Advisor team in Resurgent India, an entity whose credentials are seriously in doubt, and needs to be removed from the list of the advisors providing advice on nine or ten more CPSEs to the Centre on disinvestment decisions.

Nobody can take the plea that the CEL is not playing a strategic role in nation building, as it had acknowledged it in unambiguous terms when the concerned Minister apprised the LokSabha on 26-7-2019 of the important role played by the CEL (LokSabha Starred Question No. 497). The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and

Technology, in their 328th Report tabled before the Parliament on 6-3-2020 also expressed their appreciation at CEL's efforts to develop indigenous technologies in strategic sectors.

The sale of CEL implies underselling a highly valuable asset base of the government for a paltry sum to a company that may change its role to the detriment of the national interest. The sale violates the declared policy of Govt to ensure Atmanir bhar Bharath. You may please recall the fact that CEL's contribution in the area of bringing indigenized products in strategic areas is widely recognized by the Scientific Community. If the government wishes to raise additional fiscal resources, there are more benign and effective ways to do it. Therefore, from all these points of view, we feel that the transaction has hurt the public interest, as well as the overall national interest.

NCOA condemns the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) empowered alternative mechanism for disinvestment to approve the dubious sale procedure of CEL and demands to withdraw the decision of Union Govt to sell CEL, so that the slogan of Atmanirbhar Bharathcan be reinforced.

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(V. K. TOMAR) SECRETARY GENERAL

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