GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND JULY, 2021

EXPANSION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES OF BSNL

333 # Shri Ram Nath Thakur:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL network is not much popular in rural areas due to infrastructural obstacles;

(b) whether it is also a fact that BSNL consumers are turning towards other service providers due to these obstacles; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any concrete steps to expand the infrastructural facilities of BSNL so that it can become the first choice of its consumers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) Number of rural mobile connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during last three years are as given below:

S.No.	As on	No. of mobile subscribers	%age increase
1	31.03.2019	3,65,89,621	2.15
2	31.03.2020	3,80,85,638	4.09
3	31.03.2021	3,78,38,495	-0.65

Numbers of subscribers of BSNL in rural areas are increasing. However, there is slight drop in number of subscribers in FY 2020-21.

(b) The figures of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) during the last three years are as below:

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Port out (PO)	Port in (PI)	PO/PI
1	2018-19	28,27,440	53,64,649	0.53
2	2019-20	32,69,088	39,20,284	0.83
3	2020-21	63,36,389	17,14,618	3.7

As can be seen from the Table above, BSNL has gained subscribers during FY 2018-19 and 2019-20 even in the wake of challenging competition in the telecom market. However, in FY 2020-21, more subscribers have ported out due to lack of extensive 4G coverage in BSNL network.

(C) The Government approved the revival plan for BSNL on 23.10.2019, which inter-alia includes administrative allotment of spectrum for providing 4G services with funding through budgetary allocation.

BSNL has floated an Expression of Interest (EOI) on 01.01.2021 for prior registration/Proof of Concept (PoC) from Indian Companies interested in participating in BSNL's upcoming 4G tender. BSNL has issued the Letter of Intent (LoI) to 5 eligible bidders on 01.07.2021.

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