

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 107
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

MERGER OF BBNL WITH BSNL

107 SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to merge Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to fast track its ambitious BharatNet project, which aims to connect 6,00,000 villages with high speed internet;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 107 FOR 16TH DECEMBER, 2022 ON “MERGER OF BBNL WITH BSNL”.

(a) to (c) The Union Cabinet in the meeting held on 27.07.2022 approved the merger of Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for expediting the roll-out of BharatNet network across about 6 lakhs villages. BharatNet would continue to be funded by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and its infrastructure will remain a National asset owned by USOF and accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to all Service Providers. The merger of BBNL with BSNL will provide end-to-end connectivity leading to better uptime and utilization of BharatNet.
