

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 118
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th DECEMBER, 2022**

ROLL OUT OF 5G FACILITIES BY BSNL AND MTNL

118 SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) by when BSNL and MTNL would roll out 5G facilities; and
- (b) the reasons for BSNL and MTNL not being given opportunities/ encouraged to compete with private players despite having the largest network and large number of towers in comparison with private players?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) 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 (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *118 FOR 16th DEC, 2022 REGARDING ROLL OUT OF 5G FACILITIES BY BSNL AND MTNL

(a) & (b) In line with Atma-nirbhar initiative of the Government, BSNL was directed to deploy Indian 4G stack. BSNL floated the Expression of Interest (EOI) on 1st Jan, 2021 for the Proof of Concept (PoC). The PoC has been completed with few pending points. BSNL has issued the Purchase Order for 6,000 sites for 4G roll-out on 31-03-2022 and another purchase order of 6,000 sites on 25-07-2022. Thereafter, BSNL has floated the tender in October 2022 for its requirement of 1 lakh 4G sites. 5G upgradability of the 4G equipment has also been kept as a deferred feature which shall be provided within 1 year of launch of 4G services.

Further, Government has reserved the spectrum for BSNL for its 5G services while conducting the spectrum auction in July 2022.
