

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1194  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**LOSSES INCURRED BY TELECOM PSUS**

**1194 SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the cumulative losses incurred by BSNL and MTNL in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government has proposed any mechanism to study the reasons for the losses;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government intends to disinvest in the telecom PSUs; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) The cumulative losses incurred by BSNL and MTNL in the last five years, year-wise are given below:-

<b>BSNL</b>		<b>MTNL</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Profit / (Loss) Rs. In Crore</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Profit / (Loss) Rs. In Crore</b>
2017-18	(7,993)	2017-18	(2,970)
2018-19	(14,904)	2018-19	(3,397)
2019-20	(15,500)	2019-20	(3,811)
2020-21	(7,441)	2020-21	(2,454)
2021-22	(6,982)	2021-22	(2,616)
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(52,820)</b>	<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(15,250)</b>

(b) & (c) BSNL was incurring losses due to high employee cost over the years, debt burden, stiff competition in the market and lack of 4G services (except on a limited basis in certain areas). On 23.10.2019, the Cabinet approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL involving reduction in employee costs through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds, administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services through capital infusion, monetization of core and non-core assets. As a result, BSNL became operationally profitable in FY 2020-21 and Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) has remained positive since then.

Further, to transform BSNL into a viable Public Sector Undertaking, the Cabinet on 27.07.2022 approved revival package for BSNL amounting to Rs 1.64 lakhs crores. The revival measures focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL.

(d) & (e) Disinvestment of telecom PSUs will be taken up as per new Public Sector Enterprise policy for Atma Nirbhar Bharat announced in February 2021.

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