

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1980
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd DECEMBER, 2022**

REASONS FOR DELAY IN 5G SERVICES BY BSNL

1980 SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State-owned PSU, BSNL, is not capable of providing 5G services to its customers and because of this, the BSNL is losing its customers, if so, the reasons for delay in 5G services;
- (b) whether timeline promised by Ministry to provide 5G services to BSNL customers has been delayed due to various reasons, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the 5G services would be started by BSNL?

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

(a) to (c) 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. Further, 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. Meanwhile, the Government has reserved the spectrum for BSNL in all Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) for providing 5G services, while conducting the spectrum auction in July, 2022.
