

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 231
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023**

SIM CARDS OF BSNL

231 Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the mobile phone users are not showing any interest to purchase SIM Cards of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) due to unavailability of 4G and 5G services, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is incurring heavy losses due to decreasing number of BSNL mobile consumers on account of unavailability of BSNL 4G services, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not starting BSNL 4G network throughout the country; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to save BSNL from competition with private companies?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is adding new subscribers regularly, the year-wise SIM Sale of BSNL is as given below:

Year	No. of SIM cards sold
FY 2020-21	1,53,75,842
FY 2021-22	1,66,13,776
FY 2022-23 (up to Dec. 2022)	99,65,660

- (b) The details of income, expenditure and profit/loss of BSNL for last 05 years are as under: -

(in INR Crore)

Financial Year	Total Income	Total Expenditure	Net profit/ (loss)
2018-19	19,321	34,225	(14,904)
2019-20	18,907	34,406	(15,500)
2020-21	18,595	26,036	(7,441)
2021-22	19,052	26,034	(6,982)
2022-23 (up to 30.09.2022)	9,366	12,956	(3,589)

- (c) In line with Atmanirbhar initiative of the government, BSNL was directed to deploy Indian core for 4G on the recommendations of Empowered Technology Group (ETG). Accordingly, BSNL has floated tender on 22-10-2022 for 1 lakh 4G sites which is under evaluation.
- (d) To transform BSNL into a viable Public Sector Undertaking, the Government on 27.07.2022, has approved revival package for BSNL amounting to Rs 1.64 lakhs crores. The revival measures approved by the Cabinet 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.
