

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3420  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31<sup>ST</sup> March, 2023**

**RELIEF PACKAGE TO BSNL AND MTNL**

**3420. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether relief package offered to BSNL and MTNL provides for merger of the two entities;
- (b) if so, whether a transaction advisor has been appointed and expected timeline for conclusion of merger;
- (c) number of districts in which 5G has been launched and number of base transceiver stations deployed as on date;
- (d) whether contract for 4G equipment acquisition by BSNL has been awarded, if so details thereof and expected timeline for completion of 4G roll-out;
- (e) telecom circles in which BSNL has seen sharpest revenue declines and reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether Government has sought an action plan from associated CGMs in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Union Cabinet, while approving revival package for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on 27.07.2022, approved formation of a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) for detailed examination to resolve matters of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) including merger of MTNL with BSNL.

(c) As on 03.03.2023, total 1,01,687 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) have been installed in 422 Districts of the country.

(d) 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 floated tender on 22.10.2022 for 1 lakh 4G sites. The bid was opened on 23.11.2022. 4G services will be started all over India within 18-24 months after placing the Purchase Order.

(e) Sharpest revenue decline up to Apr-Dec, 2022 as compared to Apr-Dec, 2021, is seen in following Telecom Circles namely: West Bengal (-25.8%), Chennai Telephones (-21.4%), UP East (-20.1%), Sikkim (-12.0%), Andaman & Nicobar (-11.9%), Odisha (-8.2%) and Bihar (-7.2%). This decline is due to various market related factors.

(f) The performance of BSNL Circles and Business Areas (BAs) is regularly monitored by BSNL management. The BSNL management has taken steps to increase revenue, which includes increasing customer base of FTTH/Leased Lines retaining the revenue in respect of Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Broadband, Mobile & other value added services in addition to monetization of building, towers and fibre assets.

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