

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1019
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2023**

REVIVAL OF BSNL

1019 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of plan of expenditure of ₹89,047 crore allocated to BSNL as revival package;
- (b) the details of amount that was released for earlier revival packages, year-wise;
- (c) in what manner BSNL has been benefitted from the earlier packages;
- (d) the number of employees who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and the amount spent on VRS;
- (e) whether BSNL will be able to launch 5G services by 2023, if so, timeline thereof, Statewise; and
- (f) in what manner BSNL will reduce its debt, the details thereof?

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

(a) The details of plan of expenditure of ₹89,047 crore allocated to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as revival package is given below:

Additional capex for Spectrum	Financial Year	Amount including GST (in ₹ Crores)
700 MHz band	2023-24	46,338.60
Payment for pre-surrendered spectrum in 900/1800 Mhz band	2023-24	531.89
2500 MHz band	2024-25	9,428.20
3300 Mhz band	2024-25	26,184.20
26 GHz band	2025-26	6,564.93
Total		89,047.82

(b) & (c) To transform BSNL into a viable Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), the Cabinet on 23.10.2019, 27.07.2022 and 07.06.2023 approved revival packages to BSNL and MTNL. The revival measures mainly focus on rationalization of manpower cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) supported by budgetary allocation by Government of India for ex-gratia, debt restructuring by raising of Sovereign Guarantee Bonds, administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services,

infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocation of spectrum, de-stressing the Balance Sheet and augmentation of Fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) with BSNL.

The details of amount released for earlier revival packages, year-wise is given below:

Particulars	Financial Year (Amount in ₹ crore)				
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (up-to 18.07.2023)
Spectrum in 900 MHz	-	-	-	23,373	-
Capex Support	-	-	-	3,013	-
Ex-gratia	4,196	9,346.05	-		
AGR Dues	-	-	--	-	26,984
Viability Gap Funding	-	-	-	16,189	-
Total	4,196	9,346.05	-	42,575	26,984

(d) Total 78,323 employees retired voluntarily under BSNL Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)-2019 and an amount of ₹13,542.05 Crore released to BSNL for payment of Ex-gratia to VRS retirees.

(e) In line with Atmanirbhar initiative of the Government, BSNL has issued Purchase orders for one-lakh 4G sites to rollout 4G services all over India within 18 to 24 months. BSNL is planning 5G services after rollout of 4G services across the country.

(f) The details of approval as well as action taken so far , on the debt restructuring measures included in the revival packages are given below :-

Measures approved	Status of implementation
Revival package 2019: Issuance of ₹8,500 crore Sovereign Guarantee (SG) Bonds of tenure 10 year or more	BSNL has raised Sovereign Guarantee (SG) Bonds of ₹ 8,500 crore on 23.09.2020.
Revival package 2022: Issuance of Sovereign Guarantee Bonds of ₹ 22,828 crore of tenure 10 year or more in three tranches of ₹ 8,446 crore in 2022-23, ₹ 6,522 crore in 2023-24 and ₹ 7,860 crore in 2024-25, with waiver of guarantee fee, to repay high cost debt and restructure it with new sustainable loan.	BSNL has raised Sovereign Guarantee (SG) Bonds of ₹ 4,184.70 crore on 21.12.2022 in FY 2022-23 (out of 8446 crore).
