

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2621
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2023**

RESTORATION OF BSNL'S MARKET SHARE

2621 SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether steps have been taken to restore BSNL's market share which was reduced to 9.27 per cent in March 2023, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has devised any innovative drive to retrieve the eroded base, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has intervened in fixing a unique tariff system to make a sustainable business atmosphere in the telecom sector; and
- (d) whether Government will make clear the expected timeline for the rollout of 4G and 5G services in Metro cities across the country?

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

(a) to (d) The market share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for last three years is shown in the following table:

As on	Market share of BSNL in %
31 st March 2021	10.41
31 st March 2022	10.39
31 st March 2023	9.45

To restore the market share of BSNL, the Government of India has undertaken the following measures to improve the performance of BSNL:

- (i) The Union Cabinet on 23.10.2019 approved the revival package of worth approx. Rs 70,000 Cr for revival of BSNL/MTNL by reducing employee costs through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds, monetisation of assets etc.
- (ii) The Government 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, augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL.

- (iii) The Union Cabinet on 07.06.2023 approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with the total outlay of Rs. 89,047 Cr through equity infusion.

As a result of the revival packages, BSNL has become operationally profitable since 2020-21 and remained so since then.

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. The equipment of 4G is upgradable to 5G. BSNL is planning 5G services after rollout of 4G services.

As per existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance except for certain specified services.

As per the Notice Inviting Applications (NIAs) for auction of spectrum conducted from time-to-time and the license conditions, the rollout obligations are required to be met over a period of five years, in a phased manner, from the date of allocation of spectrum. Further expansion of mobile networks beyond the mandatory rollout obligations and the cost involved depends on the techno-commercial consideration of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

At present 4G services are available in all the cities and 93.23% of villages. 5G services are available in 717 districts across the country.
