

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 53
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

DEVELOPING MTNL AND BSNL FIBER NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE

53 Shri Sanjay Raut:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to expand Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) fiber network infrastructure in the country by involving new young talent and startup programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the delay to connect last mile network in the country;
- (c) whether it is a fact that MTNL's fiber network expansion is very slow as compared to other private network providers; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to expand MTNL and BSNL network more swiftly in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) BSNL/MTNL operate more than 14 Lakh Km fiber out of the total 39 Lakh Km fiber installed in the country. BSNL/MTNL has provided more than 34 Lakh home fiber connections. More than 5,000 village level entrepreneurs called BharatNet Udyami have been roped in to provide home fiber connections.

To encourage start-up companies including Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) for testing and developing their innovative products and solutions, BSNL has finalized Proof of Concept (POC) policy. This policy is also expected to promote Research and Development of indigenous telecom products and solutions in India.

Government has given three revival packages to BSNL/MTNL amounting to more than 3.2 Lakh Cr. As part of the revival strategy, BSNL/MTNL is expanding fiber network and 4G/5G network across the country.
