

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 329
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2024**

STRENGTHENING BSNL AND MAKING IT DEBT- FREE

329 # SMT. MAHUA MAJI:

Will the Minister of *Communications* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), a very important institution of the Government, is heavily debt-ridden while private companies are making profits;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plan to strengthen BSNL and make it debt-free;
- (c) if so, the detailed description of the said plan along with the time by when BSNL would become debt-free; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) Debt position of BSNL vis-à-vis other operators:

(Rs. in Cr.)

Name of the Company	Debt Position		
	As on 31.03.2022	As on 31.03.2023	As on 31.03.2024
BSNL	40,400	28,092	23,297
Bharti Airtel Limited*	1,07,624	1,40,641	1,25,983
Jio Infocomm Limited*	42,486	35,678	52,740
Voda Idea Limited*	1,91,074	2,01,820	2,07,885

**Source: Published financial statements.*

- (b) to (d) Government has taken various steps for revival of BSNL
 - In 2019, first revival package amounting to around Rs. 69 Thousand Crore that brought down the operating costs of BSNL/MTNL.
 - In 2022, revival package amounting to around Rs. 1.64 Lakh Crore was given. It focused on infusing fresh capital, restructuring debt, viability gap funding for rural telephony etc.
 - In 2023, Government approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with the total outlay of around Rs. 89 Thousand Crore.

As a result of these packages, BSNL has started earning operating profits from F.Y. 2020-21.
