

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1134
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH DECEMBER, 2024**

IMPROVEMENT IN BSNL SERVICES

**1134 SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI M. SHANMUGAM:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of employees as on 1.1.2019 and employees who sought Voluntary Retirement Scheme, in the last five years;
- (b) the details of measures taken to revive BSNL and to provide the latest services available for the subscribers, in view of tough competition in the industry;
- (c) by when Government intends to roll out self-reliant 5G and expanding 4G coverage under the saturation scheme to BSNL and details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has paid any attention towards making BSNL the best company in telecom industry, in view of dedicated and experienced employees in the company, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The number of employees in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 01.01.2019 was 1,70,125. The number of employees taken Voluntary Retirement in last five years is 79,654 in BSNL.

(b) to (d) Government has taken various steps for revival of BSNL, as mentioned below:

- In 2019, first revival package amounting to around Rs.69 Thousand Crores was given that brought down the operating costs of BSNL/MTNL.
- In 2022, revival package amounting to around Rs.1.64 Lakh Crores 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 Crores.

As a result of the revival measures and BSNL's strategy and services, BSNL has started earning operating profit from 2020-21.

Further, BSNL has already placed purchase order for procurement of indigenously developed one lakh 4G sites for pan India deployment. Supply of 4G equipment has started from September 2023. As on 31.10.2024, total 50,708 4G sites have been installed and 41,957 4G sites are ON-Air. The 4G equipment is 5G upgradable.
