

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 501
ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2025**

PM-WANI SCHEME

501 SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of beneficiaries and Public Data Offices (PDOs) established under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the current status of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) integration with the PM WANI framework, including the number of Wi-Fi hotspots already migrated or proposed to be migrated under the scheme; and
- (c) whether Government has a long-term vision or plan in place to revive BSNL, and the present status of its 5G rollout across the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under the PM-WANI framework, Public Data Offices (PDOs) establish, operate and maintain WANI compliant Wi-Fi Hotspots based on their techno-commercial considerations and deliver internet services to subscribers.

A total 7500 PM Wani Wi-fi hotspots have been established in state of Tamil Nadu.

- (b) BSNL has integrated 20529 Wi-fi hotspots with PM-WANI framework. Additionally, around 16,000 new hotspots are proposed to come under PM-WANI framework in UP State, in next two years.
- (c) The Government has approved revival packages to BSNL. The details of BSNL revival package is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

As for the rollout of 5G services across the country, BSNL has issued an Advance Purchase Order for the provision of 5G as a service in the Delhi Service area. Roll-out of 5G services in Delhi is expected to commence within 6 months from the date of award of work. BSNL plans to rollout 5G services after 4G services rollout is completed.

ANNEXURE-I

Components wise status of the revival package-Financial								
Revival packages to BSNL /MTNL in 2019, 2022 & 2023						Figures in Rs crore		
S no	Financial Milestones	2019	2022	2023	Total Approved funds	Released funds	Status	Remark
1	Immediate implementation of VRS in BSNL/MTNL	29,937	No	No	29,937	29,574.54 (up to may 2025)	Completed w.e.f 31.01.2020	The GoM note for additional fund of Rs 2105.64 Cr. is under submission.
2	Debt restructuring of BSNL and MTNL through Sovereign Guarantee Bonds (SGB) supports	15,000 (BSNL- 8,500 , MTNL- 6,500)	40,399 (BSNL- 22,828 , MTNL- 17,571)	No	55,399	38,814.69 (BSNL-Rs 14,743.7 Cr , MTNL-Rs 24,070.99 Cr)	Completed	BSNL raised SGB of Rs 6,243.7 Cr out of Rs 22,828 Cr as per their requirement. Further, the balance SGB amount is not required by BSNL. MTNL raised full SGBs.
3	Administrative allotment of spectrum to BSNL/MTNL for providing 2G and 4G/5G through equity infusion	24,084 (Revised cost of 14,148)	44,993 (Revised Cost of 30,156)	89,047	1,58,124 (Revised cost Rs 1,33,351 Cr)	1,09,787	on-going	a. The remaining amount will be released as and when sought by BSNL. b. Rs. 19,482.58 cr. allotted BE 2025-26.

4	Support for settlement of AGR dues to BSNL up to March 2022. Similar support to settle AGR dues to BSNL on the same principle for 5 years from 1 st April 2022 onward through equity infusion	No	33,404 (up to March2022)	No	33,404	31,957.16	on-going	<p>a. The funds Rs 26,983.71 Cr have been released for settlement of AGR dues for period up to FY 2021-22.</p> <p>b. Further, funds for Rs 3,286.27 Cr have been released for settlement of AGR dues for FY2022-23 & FY 2023-24.</p> <p>c. Rs. 2,095 cr. allotted in BE 2025-26. Provisional Rs. 1687.18 cr. has been released for AGR dues of 2024-25, . The remaining amount will be released as and when sought by BSNL.</p>
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S No	Financial Milestones	2019	2022	2023	Total Approved funds	Released funds	Status	Remark
5	CAPEX requirement support through equity infusion	No	22,471	No	22,471	17,273	on-going	<p>a. Released Rs 17,273 Cr as CAPEX support for Landline business, Mobile business and Enterprise Business etc.</p> <p>b. Further, the Cabinet on 07.02.2025, has approved additional CAPEX support of Rs 6,982 Cr for phase IX-2.</p> <p>c. Rs. 12,180 cr. allotted in BE 2025-26.</p>
6	Viability Gap Funding (VGF) in form of grant-in-aid to BSNL. Similar reimbursement will also be allowed to BSNL from FY2020-21 to FY 2025-26	No	20,989 (13,789 + 7200)	No	20,989 (13,789 + 7200)	19,669	on-going	<p>a. Released Rs 13,789 Cr up to March '20. Committed Rs 1200 Cr each year for six years.</p> <p>b. Rs 4,800 Cr paid from FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24.</p> <p>c. Provisionally, Rs. 1080 cr. released in for 2024-25.</p> <p>Remaining Rs 1,320 Cr pending for two years (i.e. 2024-25 and 2025-26).</p>

7	Re-issue 9% non-cumulative preference shares of Rs. 7,500 Cr to Gol	No	7,500	No	7,500	7,500	Completed	Preferential shares re-issued/re-endorsed by BSNL
8	1. Merger of MTNL with BSNL 2. The constitution of the Committee of Secretaries for restructuring of MTNL	Yes	1,600	No	1,600		Ongoing	The CoS recommended operational merger of MTNL with BSNL and the same was approved by the Govt. The Service Agreement signed between the PSUs is in effect from 01.01.2025. Fund of Rs . 1600 cr. is meant restructuring and operational integration. May be utilized in future.
	Total	69,021	1,71,356	89,047	3,29,424 (Reduced cost Rs 3,04,651 Cr)	2,54,575.39 (83.56%)		
