

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 199
ANSWERED ON 06TH AUGUST, 2026**

BSNL INDIGENOUS 4G ROLLOUT AND BHARATNET RURAL BROADBAND

199 # SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the BSNL's homegrown 4G infrastructure milestones, operational site count, and India's domestic radio network technology leadership;
- (b) the BharatNet status under ₹ 1.39 lakh crore allocation for Gram Panchayat fibre access and 1.5 crore rural broadband connections;
- (c) whether the 4G Saturation Project for border and LWE districts is on track, with 17,000 of 21,000 towers completed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) how the interventions and fiscal allocations within the BSNL revitalization packages designed to promote digital equity, bridge the rural-urban connectivity gap, and advance the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 199 FOR 06th AUGUST, 2026 REGARDING “BSNL INDIGENOUS 4G ROLLOUT AND BHARATNET RURAL BROADBAND”ASKED BY SHRI BABURAM NISHAD.

(a): In line with Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, BSNL has installed 98,550 indigenous 4G sites on pan India basis out of one lakh sites as on 25.07.2026, of which 97,174 4G sites are ON-Air.

(b): BharatNet program has been approved for provision of broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the country. Further, the Government has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) for upgradation of the existing network created under Phase-I and Phase-II of BharatNet and to create incremental network for new GPs, and to the non-GP villages on demand basis, operation and maintenance and provision of fibre internet connections.

As on 30.6.2026, a total 43,908 km of optical fibre cable have been laid and a total of 13,494 Gram Panchayats have been upgraded under the Amended BharatNet Program. Further, as on 30.06.2026, active FTTH connections using BharatNet across the country are 9,75,402.

(c) & (d): As on 30.06.2026, 23,426 4G towers out of 33,409 4G towers, have been made ON-Air under different Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) funded mobile projects including border districts and the LWE affected districts.

(e): To strengthen BSNL, expand telecom and rural digital connectivity throughout India, reduce operational costs, and promote indigenous telecommunications technology, the Government approved revival packages worth about ₹3.18 lakh crore, including sovereign guarantee for ₹31,328 crore for raising long-term Sovereign Guarantee Bonds (SGBs) for debt restructuring.
