GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 148 TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2022

RELIEF PACKAGE TO BSNL

148. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.: SHRI A. RAJA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has approved a Rs.1.64 lakh crore package for the revival of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the package includes 4G spectrum and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government expects a turn around of BSNL with the revival plan will turn around and generate net profits in the next 3-4 years and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any target fixed for BSNL to increase the mobile subscriber base; and
- (e) the details of facilities being provided to BSNL to compete in the market and to upgrade its technology to make it level playing field?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) to (e) The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 27.07.2022 has approved revival package for BSNL/MTNL amounting to Rs. 1.64 lakhs crores. The Revival measures focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet, augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL and sovereign guarantees to BSNL/MTNL.

4G Spectrum to BSNL has already been approved by the Government as a part of its Revival Package on 23.10.2019. Department of Telecommunications vide their letter dated 27.10.2022 has done re-assignment / Fresh assignment of frequencies to BSNL in the 900 MHz band in view of the Cabinet decision on 27.07.2022. With the implementation of approved revival measures by the Government, BSNL is expected to turn-around with net profit in FY2026-27. The targets for different line of business of BSNL including mobile services have been fixed for BSNL for its turnaround in a time bound manner.
