

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2403
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st DECEMBER, 2022**

STEPS TO IMPROVE BSNL SERVICES

2403. SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking steps to improve the services of BSNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the number of towers that are installed in Gujarat in the last three years?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) & (b) Yes, on 23.10.2019, Government of India approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL. It inter-alia approved the reduction in employee costs through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds, administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services through capital infusion, monetization of core and non-core assets and in-principle approval of merger of BSNL and MTNL. As a result of these, BSNL became operationally profitable in Financial Year 2020-21 and has remained so since then.

Further, to transform BSNL into a viable Public Sector Undertaking, the Government approved on 27.07.2022 a revival package for BSNL amounting to Rs 1.64 lakhs crores. The revival measures approved by the Cabinet focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL.

(c) The details of the number of towers installed by Telecom Service Providers in Gujarat in the last three years are given below:

Year	Number of Towers installed
2019-20	22,118
2020-21	13,535
2021-22	9,234
