

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2352
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15TH MARCH, 2023**

BSNL SERVICES

**2352. DR. T.R. PAARIVENDHAR:
SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has taken necessary efforts to provide 3G, 4G and 5G services across the country with the required advanced infrastructure under Atmanirbhar Bharat initiation of the Government of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of towers purchased through Expression of Interest (EOI) and commercial negotiations and balance to be purchased;
- (c) the details of the timeline fixed for providing 3G, 4G and 5G services advanced infrastructure facilities to compete with the foreign and Indian private telecom giants; and
- (d) the details of the fund provision made and utilised so far from the revival plan for BSNL?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is providing 3G services since February 2009. Further, in line with Atmanirbhar initiative of the Government, BSNL was directed to deploy Indian core for 4G on the recommendations of Empowered Technology Group (ETG). Accordingly, BSNL floated tender on 22-10-2022 for 1 lakh 4G sites. The bid was opened on 23.11.2022. The evaluation of the bid has been concluded and is under final stage of approval. 4G services will be started within 18-24 months after placing the Purchase Order. This 4G network is upgradable to 5G and 5G services of BSNL will be started after roll out of 4G services.

(d) There is budget provision of Rs. 33,269.01 Crores in Revised Estimate (RE) under capital head for BSNL & MTNL, against which the expenditure is Rs. 26,386.44 Crores till 28.02.2023. For Viability Gap Funding under Revenue head, the budget allotment is Rs. 18,127 Crores (RE), out of which Rs. 13,789 Crores have been utilized till 28.02.2023.
