GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1790 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2023

BSNL AND MTNL

1790. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the state-owned telecom companies BSNL and MTNL are profitable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government to revive them; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to make BSNL and MTNL competitive against private sector telecom companies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

(a) to (c) Government has taken various steps for revival of BSNL and MTNL by providing a revival package in 2019 amounting to around Rs. 69,021 Crore that brought down the operating costs of BSNL/MTNL. The revival package of 2022 amounting to around Rs. 1.64 Lakh Crore was focused on infusing fresh capital, restructuring debt, Viability Gap funding for rural telephony etc. As a result, BSNL and MTNL have started earning operational profits from 2020-21.

In addition, the Union Cabinet on 07.06.2023 approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with the total outlay of around Rs. 89,047 Crore through equity infusion.

In accordance with Atmanirbhar initiative of the Government, BSNL has placed purchase orders for 1 Lakh indigenously developed sites to rollout 4G services. BSNL is also focusing on home fiber segment and has provided 32,99,535 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) broadband connections as on 30.09.2023.
