

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4104
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2020**

SHORTAGE OF BSNL TOWERS IN REMOTE AREAS

†4104. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) towers and network related issues in remote areas of the country including Gujarat and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to improve the communication services provided by BSNL; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

(a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that as on 31.12.2019, out of total 6,41,525 villages in the country, 4,52,804 villages are covered with its mobile network. In the Gujarat State, 13,297 villages out of total 18,309 villages are covered with mobile coverage of BSNL.

It is further informed by BSNL that on the basis of techno-commercial viability, it is progressively adding more number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) in rural as well as urban areas under various network expansion phases to provide coverage to uncovered villages in all of its Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) including Gujarat State.

The Government has approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL on 23.10.2019. The revival plan inter-alia, includes administrative allotment of spectrum to BSNL for providing 4G services. With the implementation of the revival plan, BSNL will offer improved and competitive services to their subscribers.
