

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 478
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2020**

MERGER OF BSNL AND MTNL

**478. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIV RAO MANDLIK:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved any plan to merge Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done;
- (c) whether the Government has offered VRS schemes to employees of BSNL and MTNL and if so, the details thereof and response received by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether BSNL and MTNL has identified any assets for monetization and held a meeting with Department of Investment and Public Asset Management in this regard and if so, the details and the outcomes thereof; and
- (e) the total amount of money likely to be generated by the Government through overall asset monetization of BSNL and MTNL during the current financial year?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The Cabinet in the meeting held on 23.10.2019 approved the revival plan for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) which inter-alia includes, in-principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL. The process of merger is to be completed in 18 to 24 months.
- (c) The revival plan approved by the Cabinet also includes measures to reduce the staff cost of BSNL/MTNL through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees of age 50 years and above. Accordingly, VRS was offered by both BSNL and MTNL to their employees on 04.11.2019. The scheme was closed on 03.12.2019. The Voluntary retirement will be effective from 31.01.2020. A total of 78,569 employees of BSNL and 14,387 employees of MTNL have opted for the VRS.
- (d) BSNL and MTNL have identified 14 and 16 properties respectively for monetisation through Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). 11 properties of BSNL and 6 properties of MTNL have been approved for monetisation by DIPAM's Alternate Mechanism (AM).
- (e) The target for asset monetisation during current fiscal year for BSNL and MTNL is Rs 200 crore and Rs 300 crore respectively.
