

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3454  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**4G SERVICES OF BSNL**

3454. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allowed Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to go ahead with the rollout of 4G services and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government will allow BSNL to upgrade equipment from China which is already being used for 2G and 3G services and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the same;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared a timeline in which BSNL will be able to undertake a full-fledged rollout of 4G services and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the outsourcing of maintenance work by BSNL has led to many delays in the repairing of faults and procurement of new equipment in Kerala?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Government approved the revival plan for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on 23.10.2019, which inter-alia includes administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services through budgetary allocation to BSNL. BSNL has invited an Expression of Interest (EoI) on 01.01.2021 for prior registration/Proof of Concept (PoC) from Indian companies interested in participating in BSNL's upcoming 4G tender.

BSNL will follow the applicable Rules/guidelines/Public Procurement orders of the Government including Rule 144(xi) of the General Financial Rules, 2017 in this regard.

BSNL expects the roll out of 4G services to be completed in 18- 24 months.

(d) BSNL has informed that the faults booked have shown a reduction after outsourcing. Procurement of new equipment is not done through outsourcing agencies for maintenance work.

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