

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 109
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

BSNL AND MTNL LOSSES

*109. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL & MTNL have been incurring regular losses and BSNL's losses during the last three financial years have been Rs.14904, 15500 and 7441 crores respectively;
- (b) whether the Government has invited bids to sell off assets of BSNL and MTNL and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether majority of the telecom subscriber base is controlled by three companies and the third-largest namely Vodafone-Idea has huge debts of around Rs. 1.95 lakh crores;
- (d) whether the Government has agreed to convert Rs.16000 crores of interest liability to equity in a company with debt of Rs. 1.95 lakh crores and the stock of which is trading at sub-par in the bourses;
- (e) the rationale behind selling assets of Public Sector Telco's while simultaneously bailing-out loss making Private Sector companies; and
- (f) the details of subscriber-base of top five telecom companies both as number of subscribers and as percentage of total users in the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS &
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

- (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 109 FOR 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022 REGARDING 'BSNL AND MTNL LOSSES'.

(a) The details of profit/(Loss) of BSNL and MTNL for the last three years are as follows:

Financial Year	Profit/ (Loss) in Rs Cr	
	BSNL	MTNL
2018-19	(-)14904	(-)3398
2019-20	(-)15500	(-)3811
2020-21	(-)7441	(-)2454

(b) Bids were invited for 4 properties of BSNL and 2 properties of MTNL on 18.11.2021 and opened on 04.01.2022. No eligible bids have been received except for 7 flats in Mumbai.

(c) & (f) The details of Telecom Subscriber Base in India as on 30.11.2021 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Service Providers	No. of Subscribers (Wireline + Wireless)	% of total subscribers
1.	Reliance Jio	433,698,108	36.41%
2.	Bharti Airtel	360,811,328	30.29%
3.	Vodafone Idea	267,662,574	22.47%
4.	BSNL	120,840,124	10.15%
5.	MTNL	6,044,657	0.51%

As per financial results published by Vodafone Idea Ltd for Q3 in FY2021-22, their total non-current liabilities as on 31.12.2021 is Rs 1.96 Lakh Crores.

(d) Government has received a proposal from Vodafone Idea Ltd to convert interest liability to equity.

(e) Government has carried out various reforms for the telecom operators to promote healthy competition, protect the interest of consumers and infuse liquidity in the telecom sector. For BSNL and MTNL, Government has already approved a revival package on 23.10.2019 which inter-alia includes measures to reduce the employee cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services with funding through capital infusion, debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds and monetization of assets of BSNL/MTNL.
