

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

**LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2022**

BSNL SIM CARDS

†1208. SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the mobile phone users are not showing any interest to purchase SIM Cards of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) due to unavailability of 4G and 5G services and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is incurring heavy losses due to decreasing number of BSNL mobile consumers on account of unavailability of BSNL 4G services and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not starting BSNL 4G network throughout the country;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to save BSNL in competition with private companies; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for redressal of network related issues like call drop and poor signal of telecom companies including BSNL?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

- (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) adds new Mobile phone connections regularly. Year-wise addition of new mobile connections for the past three years is as follows:

Year	No. of new mobile connections added during the year
2018-19	2,16,64,576
2019-20	1,94,28,101
2020-21	1,53,75,842

(b) The mobile subscriber base of BSNL has gradually increased in last 5 years except for a slight decrease in 2020-21 as detailed below:

As on	Mobile Subscriber base
31.03.2017	10,09,89,553
31.03.2018	11,16,79,483
31.03.2019	11,57,42,565
31.03.2020	11,98,72,123
31.03.2021	11,86,28,482

However, BSNL is incurring losses because of various reasons including competition. The details of losses of BSNL for the last five years are as follows:

Financial Year	Losses of BSNL (in Rs Cr)
2016-17	(-)4793
2017-18	(-)7993
2018-19	(-)14904
2019-20	(-)15500
2020-21	(-)7441

(c) & (d) The Government approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL on 23.10.2019. The revival plan inter-alia includes measures to reduce the Staff cost through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for employees of age 50 years and above, administrative allotment of spectrum for providing 4G services with funding through budgetary allocation, monetisation of non-core and core assets to generate resources to retire debt, meet CAPEX and other requirement, debt restructuring by raising of Sovereign Guarantee Bonds and in-principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL.

In line with Atmanirbhar initiative, BSNL invited the Expression of Interest (EoI) on 01.01.2021 for Proof of Concept (PoC) for Indian Companies interested in participating in BSNL's upcoming 4G tender.

(e) Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) including BSNL augment their telecom network based on techno-commercial considerations for redressal of network related issues like call drop and poor signal.
