GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2909 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2022

REVIVAL OF BSNL/MTNL

†2909. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the details of step being taken by the Government for revival of BSNL/MTNL?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)

The Union Cabinet approved on 23.10.2019 the revival plan for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The Cabinet inter-alia approved the reduction in employee costs through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds, administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services through capital infusion, monetization of core and non-core assets. As a result of the initiatives taken as above, both BSNL and MTNL were Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) positive in Financial Year 2020-21.

2. Further, the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 27.07.2022 has now approved revival package of BSNL/MTNL amounting to Rs 1.64 lakhs crores. The Revival measures focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet, augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) with BSNL and sovereign guarantees to BSNL/MTNL.
