

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1535
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2024**

BSNL MOBILE TOWERS ON LEASE

†1535. SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has leased more than 12,500 towers of BSNL to private companies;
- (b) if so, the amount of revenue generated therefrom and the duration of lease;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the towers were leased out to private telecom operators to enable them provide their services at a lower cost;
- (d) if so, the reasons for which their mobile and internet tariff plans are increased;
- (e) whether the largest company in the category of these leased towers is Jio, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to reduce mobile and internet tariff plans, in view of the current internet data usage and demand along with the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) to (f) As on 31.03.2024, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has leased out 12,502 towers to other Telecom / Internet Service Providers(TSPs/ISPs) which includes 8,048 towers leased to M/s RJIL. BSNL is a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) and takes its decisions based on techno-commercial viability. BSNL has earned a revenue of total Rs. 6,920.39 Crore since year 2017-18 to 2023-24 on leasing of towers.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is an independent authority for regulation of tariff for telecommunication services in India. As per the extant regulatory tariff provisions, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance except for services such as National Roaming, Rural Fixed Line Services, mobile number portability charges and leased circuits. 'Nil' tariff has been prescribed for Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) services to promote financial inclusion etc.among rural unbanked feature phone users.
