

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2738
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024**

REVIVAL STATUS OF BSNL

2738. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the revival package announced for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), including the total funds allocated and disbursed so far;
- (b) the progress made in upgrading BSNL's infrastructure, particularly for the rollout of 4G and 5G services, the expected timeline for nationwide implementation;
- (c) the details of operational reforms introduced under the revival plan to enhance BSNL's efficiency and competitiveness in telecom sector;
- (d) whether any specific measures have been undertaken to address BSNL's financial liabilities, including debt restructuring and employees welfare, and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken to strengthen BSNL's role in providing affordable and reliable telecom services in rural and underserved areas and the outcomes achieved till date; and
- (f) whether the Government is exploring or implementing strategies to ensure BSNL's long term financial sustainability and competitiveness against private operators, and if so, the details of such strategies?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) The Cabinet on 23.10.2019, 27.07.2022 and 07.06.2023 approved the revival packages to BSNL and MTNL. The revival packages mainly focussed on rationalization of employee cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) supported by budgetary allocation by Government of India for Ex-Gratia, debt restructuring by raising of Sovereign Guarantee Bonds, infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G/5G services, monetisation of assets and viability gap funding for rural telephony etc. As a result of the revival measures and BSNL's strategy and services, BSNL has brought down its operating costs and started earning operating profit from 2020-21.

The total funds allotted under revival package is Rs. 2,28,166.96 Cr., while the fund disbursed is Rs. 1,33,581.08 Cr.

In line with Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, BSNL has placed purchase order for indigenously developed one lakh 4G sites for pan India deployment. Supply of 4G equipment has started from September 2023 and as on 06.12.2024, total 61,492 4G sites have been installed and 51,135 sites are ON-Air. The 4G equipment is 5G upgradable.

To improve the telecom connectivity in uncovered rural and remote areas, Government is implementing various projects under Digital Bharat Nidhi (erstwhile USOF). Such projects awarded to BSNL include 4G Saturation, Border Out Posts (BOP)/ Border Intelligence Posts (BIP), Left Wing Extremism (Phase-I) upgradation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure in Lakshadweep Islands etc. Further, Amended Bharatnet program has been approved by the Union Cabinet on 04.08.2023 with an outlay of Rs. 1.39 Lakh Crores to extend fiber to all Gram Panchayats and villages on demand basis, including provisions for 1.5 Crores high speed FTTH broadband connections in rural areas. BSNL is the Project Management Agency for this scheme.
