

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2293
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH MARCH, 2025**

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SCHEME IN BSNL

2293. DR. DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted an assessment of the factors contributing to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) in substantial revenue generation and if so, the details of said assessment;
- (b) whether the findings of these assessments support the decision to reduce BSNL's workforce by 35% through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and if so, the rationale for this measure;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that the VRS initiative for BSNL does not face the same challenges as previous VRS initiatives for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), which failed to improve its financial performance; and
- (d) the Government's response to concerns raised by the recognised employee union regarding the VRS initiative and the measures planned to address their grievances effectively?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government approved the first Revival package in 2019 to bring down the operating cost of BSNL by Debt restructuring through Sovereign Guarantee Bonds as well as VRS. After implementation of VRS in 2019, the employee cost of BSNL got reduced by 51%. As a result of above, BSNL started earning operating profit from 2020-21.

The revenue of BSNL is impacted due to delay in roll out of 4G services as well as stiff competition in the mobile segment. Under Atmanirbhar initiative, BSNL awarded Purchase Order for one lakh 4G Sites. As on 05.03.2025, total of 83,629 numbers 4G sites have been installed, out of which 74,123 numbers are on air.

At present, no proposal for VRS in BSNL is under consideration in the Department.
