GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3156 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2025

WEAKENING OF BSNL CONNECTIVITY

3156. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received reports regarding the weakening of BSNL connectivity in various regions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the funds allocated and projects undertaken to improve BSNL's network and infrastructure during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the measures being taken to ensure BSNL's competitiveness against private telecom operators?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) regularly monitors the performance of Telecom service providers against the benchmark for various Quality-of-Service (QoS) parameters. As per performance monitoring report (PMR), BSNL is meeting the benchmark of most of the network related QoS parameters of Cellular services.

Further to improve services of BSNL, including its network and infrastructure the Union Cabinet in 2019 approved first revival package amounting to around Rs. 69 Thousand Crores that brought down the operating costs of BSNL/MTNL. In 2022, revival package amounting to around Rs. 1.64 Lakh Crores was given. It focused on infusing fresh capital, restructuring debt, viability gap funding for rural telephony etc. In 2023, Government approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with the total outlay of around Rs. 89 Thousand Crores. In addition to these revival packages, the Cabinet Note for additional CAPEX support of Rs.6,982 Crores has been approved on 07.02.2025.

As a result of these packages, BSNL has started earning operating profits from F.Y. 2020-21.

Further, in line with Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, BSNL has placed purchase order for indigenously developed 4G sites for pan India deployment. Supply of 4G equipment has started from September 2023 and as on 05.03.2025, total 83,629 4G sites have been installed and 74,123 sites are ON-Air.
