

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1720
ANSWERED ON 30TH JULY, 2025**

REVIVAL OF BSNL IN PUNJAB'S BORDER AREAS

1720. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that BSNL, once the backbone of telecommunications in India & Punjab, especially in border districts like Amritsar, is rapidly declining due to poor infrastructure, weak maintenance, staff shortage, lack of fiber and dish connectivity, while private operators are unable to fully penetrate remote and sensitive areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive revival plan for BSNL in Punjab, including upgrading tower infrastructure, improving fiber connectivity, enhancing local employment, ensuring reliable services in border villages where national security and connectivity are both crucial, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to consider a special package for BSNL revival in border areas, given that it is the only operator with historical reach and potential to restore digital inclusion, security communication, and economic activity in such regions, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) To improve the telecom services, BSNL is rolling out one lakh indigenously developed 4G sites for pan India deployment. As on 30.06.2025, 95,537 sites have been installed and 90,035 4G sites are ON-Air. In Punjab, BSNL has installed total 3,611 4G BTS including 1,185 4G BTS in border Districts and 359 4G BTS in Amritsar District. Under Bharat Net Project as on 14.07.2025, total 12,668 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Punjab have been connected with Optical Fiber Connectivity (OFC).

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.

To further expand the network coverage in Border and remote areas, the Government is implementing various schemes such as 4G Saturation Scheme, Border Out Post (BOP)/Border Intelligence Post (BIP) etc. The details of these schemes are available on <https://usof.gov.in>.
