

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 501
ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2025**

BSNL TOWERS VIS-A-VIS PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS

501. SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a huge demand for installation of BSNL towers compared to private telecom operators and if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand for additional towers;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of quality batteries for towers, lack of solar installations and lack of generator facilities in case of power outages;
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by BSNL for providing basic infrastructure for towers;
- (d) the specific measures/steps taken by the Government to improve and upgrade the services of BSNL; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any plan to entrust tower maintenance to the local Gram Panchayat and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) 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 31.10.2025, total 97,068 4G sites have been installed and 93,511 sites are ON-Air. The equipment is 5G upgradable from technology perspective.

To further enhance the network infrastructure and service quality, BSNL is executing the various schemes of Government such as 4G Saturation Scheme, Border Out Post (BOP)/Border Intelligence Post (BIP), LWE Phase-I upgradation etc. The details of these schemes are available on <https://usof.gov.in>.

BSNL is regularly replacing old/life expired batteries on towers in a phased manner. DG sets are also available on towers based on power condition/ high revenue/ priority areas. Further, solar power is made available as primary source of power for most of new 4G BTS locations installed under Digital Bharat Nidhi.

- (e) The Government has not formulated any such plan.
