

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 650
ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2025**

REVIVAL OF BSNL IN AMRITSAR AND PUNJAB'S BORDER BELT

650. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government make BSNL, once again the backbone of telecommunications in Punjab, especially in border districts like Amritsar, is rapidly declining due to poor infrastructure, weak maintenance, staff shortage and lack of fiber and dish connectivity, while private operators are unable to fully penetrate remote and sensitive areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is making any comprehensive revival plan for BSNL in Punjab, including upgrading tower infrastructure, improving fiber connectivity, enhancing local employment and ensuring reliable services in border villages where national security and connectivity are both crucial;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government 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; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) To improve the telecom services, BSNL is rolling out one lakh indigenously developed 4G sites for pan India deployment. As on 15.11.2025, total 97,208 sites have been installed and 93,859 4G sites are ON-Air. In Punjab, BSNL has installed total 4,012 4G BTS including 903 4G BTS in border Districts and 291 4G BTS in Amritsar. Under Bharat Net Project as on 17.11.2025, 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>.
