

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.499
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

SERVICES AND SPECTRUM BY BSNL

†499. SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether BSNL, which is 100 per cent owned by the Government is providing its services to remote and rural areas and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether 4G spectrum has been allocated to this company so far;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether due to non-allocation of 4G spectrum, BSNL is unable to compete with the private operators resulting in gradual loss of revenue;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the annual losses suffered by the company along with the steps taken by the Government to tide over the losses?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing wireline and wireless services on pan-India basis (excluding Delhi and Mumbai) including remote and rural areas. State/ Circle-wise details of villages covered by BSNL mobile network is at Annexure-I.

(b) to (e) BSNL was allotted 2x5MHz (paired) spectrum in the 2100 MHz and 20 MHz unpaired spectrum in 2500 MHz frequency band in 20 Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) to deploy any technology including 4G services. BSNL also have spectrum allotment in 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz bands on administrative basis. Such administratively allotted spectrum can be liberalised and used to deploy any technology including 4G services.

BSNL has submitted a proposal to allot spectrum of 2x5 MHz (paired) in 2100 MHz band in 19 LSAs and for 2x5 MHz (paired) in the 800 MHz band in one LSA (Rajasthan) for providing 4G services with Government support.

(f) BSNL has incurred net loss of Rs.7992.85 crore in the financial year 2017-18.

Steps taken to facilitate BSNL to compete in telecom sector are at **Annexure-II**.

Number of villages covered by BSNL's mobile services as on 31.12.2018

Sl. No.	State/Circle	Total number of Villages (census 2011)	Number of villages covered with mobile services as on 31.12.2018
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	555	345
2	Andhra Pradesh	17039	12688
3	Assam	26395	20728
4	Bihar	44874	29064
5	Chhattisgarh	20125	12614
6	Chennai	1636	1610
7	Gujarat	18309	13080
8	Haryana	6841	4491
9	Himachal Pradesh	20690	18017
10	Jammu & Kashmir	6553	4219
11	Jharkhand	32394	20079
12	Karnataka	29340	19973
13	Kerala	1039	1034
14	Kolkata	750	707
15	Madhya Pradesh	54903	32325
16	Maharashtra	43999	22026
17	North East-I	8544	2622
18	North East-II	9532	4463
19	Odisha	51313	26202
20	Punjab	12592	11333
21	Rajasthan	44672	26372
22	Tamil Nadu	14433	12162
23	Telangana	10761	8352
24	Uttar Pradesh (East)	80029	76265
25	Uttar Pradesh (West)	26745	14439
26	Uttarakhand	16793	13147
27	West Bengal	40669	27722
	Total:	641525	436079

Steps taken to improve position of BSNL:

Department of Telecom (DoT) is utilising the strength and competence of BSNL to implement a number of important projects such as:

1. Providing mobile connectivity in 2199 identified locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas
2. Implementation of comprehensive telecom development plan for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands through augmentation of satellite connectivity/bandwidth
3. Optical Fibre Cable based Network for Defence Services (NFS Project)
4. Execution of BharatNet Project
5. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North-Eastern Region for provision of mobile services in uncovered villages in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam
6. Implementation of transmission media plan for North Eastern Region
7. Submarine Optical Fibre Project for providing connectivity to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
8. Setting up of 25000 Wi-Fi Hotspots at Rural Telephone Exchanges of BSNL
9. Setting up of Satellite Gateway.

This improves the capacity utilisation of the organisation, enhances and diversifies the revenue generating avenues while at the same time facilitating the fulfilment of Government objectives.

BSNL has also been encouraged to take measures such as;

1. Augmentation of mobile equipment capacity/upgradation of mobile network in its areas under Phase-VIII.4 project.
2. To improve quality of wireline telephone network BSNL will replace Legacy Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) switches to Next Generation Network (NGN) which support different kind of services i.e. voice, video and data. With migration to NGN, customer will get enhanced Value Added Services on wire line like Personalized Ring Back Tone, Multi Media Video Conferencing, IP Centrex, Limited Fixed Mobile Telephony (LFMT) and Fixed Mobile convergence(FMC), etc. This will provide better facilities to customers and at lower maintenance cost to BSNL.
3. Transport Network with 200 GBPS line capacity connecting 47 state Capitals and important cities. Work in 45 cities have already been completed.
4. Routers have been installed and commissioned where by IP-MPLS network has increased from 106 cities to 205 cities providing connectivity for broadband, NGN 2G/3G requirements.
