

1	2	3	4
6.	Mahabubnagar (includes Nagarkarnool, Wanaparthy, Jogulamba, Gadwel)	0	1327
7.	Medak (includes Sangareddy, Siddipet)	0	1049
8.	Nalgonda (includes Suryapet, Yadadri)	0	1169
9.	Warangal (includes Jayashankar Bupalpally, Janagaon, Warangal Rural, Warangal Urban, Mahboobabad)	0	962
TOTAL		2047	6578

Note: Hyderabad, being an urban area, is not covered under Bharat Net Project.

Statement-II

District-wise status of connectivity in respect of Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	District	Service Ready GPs	Balance GPs yet to be connected
1.	Chittoor	855	511
2.	Visakhapatnam	372	540
3.	Srikakulam	0	1100
4.	Vizianagaram	0	921
5.	East Godavari	0	1069
6.	West Godavari	0	920
7.	Krishna	0	970
8.	Guntur	0	1011
9.	Prakasam	0	1030
10.	SPSR Nellore	0	943
11.	YSR Kadapa	0	790
12.	Anantapur	0	977
13.	Kurnool	0	889
TOTAL		1227	11671

Support to BSNL and MTNL

2624. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private telecom players are getting the 4G spectrum licenses while the same is denied to the BSNL;

(b) whether Government has given any assurance to allocate the 4G license to BSNL in order to make it more competitive;

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate support to BSNL and MTNL to facilitate them to compete with the private players in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Since 2010 onwards, the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are allotted spectrum through auction. TSPs who have been allotted Spectrum administratively can liberalize it and deploy any technology including 4G.

Bharat Sachar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is holding spectrum in the 2100 MHz and 2500 MHz band while Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is holding spectrum in 2100 MHz band for which they have paid market determined price and hence they can deploy any technology including 4G services by utilising these bands.

(b) and (c) Proposals for allotment of additional spectrum for providing 4G services by BSNL and MTNL, with Government support, have been received in Department of Telecommunications (DoT). BSNL has already started 4G services in a few Licensed Service Areas (LSAs).

(d) Steps taken to facilitate BSNL and MTNL to compete in telecom sector are given in the Statement.

Statement

(A) 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 has 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.

(B) Steps taken to improve position of MTNL

1. Redeployment of Digital Subscribers Line Access Modules (DSLAMs) of existing wireline broadband network near to the subscriber premises thereby reducing copper length and enhancing the quality of broadband service. A total of 220 DSLAMs have been redeployed in Delhi and 174 in Mumbai. In the year 2017-18, 47 DSLAMs in Delhi and 23 in Mumbai have been redeployed. In current year also 13 more DSLAMs have been redeployed.
2. Last year, MTNL finalized and made operational its new policy to engage partners on revenue share basis to extend its FTTx services. 20 Partners in Mumbai and 15 partners in Delhi have already started to provide BB over FTTH at speeds upto 100 Mbps. Net FTTH customers added by

revenue share partners during the current year in Delhi are 1347, while in Mumbai it is 1234.

3. MTNL has signed an MoU with New Delhi Municipal Corporation Smart City Limited (NDMCSCCL) on 18.08.2017, with the objective to provide various services like FTTH, Public Wi-Fi for making NDMC area as a SMART City. The project involves around 2000 FTTH connections in Connaught Place area and approx.150 access points for Wi-Fi enabling.
4. Customer centric Strategies:—
 - To give boost to customer experience, Download Speed of Broadband subscribers is being upgraded to 8 Mbps progressively without any additional cost depending upon feasibility and line parameters.
 - Training is being given to line staff to improve maintenance and installation practices.
 - Refurbishing of 20% Pillars and DPs every year, is planned in phased manner. 1113 Pillar and 4,697 DP in Delhi and 1677 Pillar and 3563 DPs in Mumbai have been refurbished by MTNL in 2017-18. In current year also, total DPs refurbished in Delhi and Mumbai are 19877 and 1860 respectively whereas, 864 and 866 pillars have been refurbished in Delhi and Mumbai respectively.
 - To improve copper pair quality, 81,492 mtr existing Drop wires have been replaced with twisted drop wires or thermo sleeves have been put at open joints at DPs by MTNL in 2017-18. In current year this count has been 41,317 as on 30.09.2018.
 - Proactive Monitoring of Broadband Faults through Radius attempt.

4G spectrum for BSNL

2625. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made allotment of 4G spectrum to BSNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the policies, financial assistance and timely expansion of service that Government had undertaken in the last four years to ensure the growth of State-owned telecom company, BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was allotted 2x5 MHz (paired) spectrum in the 2100 MHz and 20 MHz unpaired spectrum