

Reduction in losses of BSNL

1427. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL was able to narrow down its loss to ₹7,500 crore in financial year 2019-20;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the reduced loss was achieved by reducing expenses; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) As per provisional and unaudited results for the financial year 2018-19, loss of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is ₹ 14,202 crore.

(c) and (d) Expenditure of BSNL has increased from ₹ 33,510.65 crore in FY 2017-18 to ₹ 33,808.80 crore (provisional and unaudited) in FY 2018-19.

Transformation of post offices into instruments of financial inclusion

1428. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision to transform post offices into instruments of financial inclusion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to utilise postal network to enhance financial inclusion in rural areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) Post offices offer several financial services to citizens which includes small savings through Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) Scheme, micro remittances services like electronic money order (eMO) and instant money order (iMO), life insurance (Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance) and services of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) like savings and current account, remittances, bill payment etc., all of which are *de-facto* instruments of financial inclusion.