

Financial package for BSNL

1626. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a financial package is being worked out for the BSNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL is a priority for Government and it wants the BSNL to work properly; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is a strategically important Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Government of India. For revival of BSNL, the Government has approved a revival plan for on 23.10.2019. The revival plan *inter-alia* includes, the measures to reduce the staff cost through a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to the employees of age 50 years and above, administrative allotment of spectrum to BSNL for providing 4G services, monetisation of assets of BSNL, debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds and in-principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL.

The Government has approved ₹26,608 crore (₹ 13,840 crore on account of *Ex-Gratia* on VRS and ₹ 12,768 crore due to advancement of pensionary benefits spread over a period of ten years) through budgetary allocation, full cost of spectrum (excluding GST) of ₹ 14,115 crore for BSNL to be funded through equity infusion by Government and GST component of ₹ 2,541 crore be funded through budgetary allocation from Government.

Internet services in Gram Panchayats

1627. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has provided internet facility in Gram Panchayats to extend the benefits of communication and information technology to the people living in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of fund released and utilised in this respect during each of the last three years, State/UT/district-wise; and

(d) the total number of people who were benefited through the facility during the said period, State/UT/district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approx. 2,50,000) in the country. As part of BharatNet project, the Last Mile Connectivity, through Wi-Fi or any other suitable broadband access technology is to be provided in all the Gram Panchayats.

In the 1.23 lakh GPs (approx.) of BharatNet Phase-I, the provisioning of Wi-Fi Services has been assigned to Government of Rajasthan, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited (a Special Purpose Vehicle under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology), etc. In the 1407 GPs of BharatNet Phase-II, the provisioning of connectivity over satellite media, along with Wi-Fi services, has been assigned to BSNL.

As on 24.02.2020, Wi-Fi hotspots have been installed in 45,769 Gram Panchayats (GPs) and out of them, services are being provided in 18,683 GPs.

(c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has disbursed ₹ 5600 crore, ₹ 6000 crore, and ₹ 4145.54 crore to Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) during 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 respectively, and the details of the State/UT-wise funds released /utilised by BBNL in this respect during each of the last three years, are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). Further, the details of the State/UT-wise funds, directly released by USOF, are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(d) The details of the State/UT-wise active subscribers of Wi-Fi services under BharatNet project are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

Funds released/utilised by BBNL for the BharatNet during last three years

Sl. No.	State/UT	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18464332	1600000	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	28257523
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	176787282.9	139671853	0

Sl. No.	State/UT	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
4.	Assam	891768154	121022896	111147297
5.	Bihar	1900995444	452279258	1025139872
6.	Chhattisgarh	2412033156	1009457086	2473436121
7.	Gujarat, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	1297999723	743049756	2566552474
8.	Haryana	906575955	1514305607	97260991
9.	Himachal Pradesh	525127700	0	5631310
10.	Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh	423750351	39011100	4573254
11.	Jharkhand	813945657	96710822	768583039
12.	Karnataka	12490077	2738336877	502688665
13.	Kerala	259560814	125084405	128586308
14.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4519556872	2382297311	752740055
16.	Maharashtra	5851859025	2439577323	3970879360
17.	Manipur	185186215.2	146307480	0
18.	Meghalaya	247461225.6	195508225	0
19.	Mizoram	132129545.2	123487397	0
20.	Nagaland	203622895.9	160873490	0
21.	Odisha	1158064960	137598146	667823793
22.	Puducherry	22342903	5316342	7532036
23.	Punjab	2362941194	127721902	826997606
24.	Rajasthan	1624698933	1466179320	673987717
25.	Sikkim	432268500	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	0	1106410000	0

Sl. No.	State/UT	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
27.	Telangana	82389383	11999999	51676013
28.	Tripura	209153900.2	165243293	0
29.	Uttar Pradesh	6353029478	1478805370	0
30.	Uttarakhand	1274448954	43693684	50361872
31.	West Bengal	1416285784	937578370	132237331
TOTAL		35714938415	17909127313	14846092637
* GPON & OFC		6919075218	1152730518	0
* Ad hoc payment done for BSNL		0	0	8630000000
TCIL		0	0	0
BSNL –VSAT		0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		42634013633	19061857831	23476092637

Statement-II*State/UT-wise funds directly released by USOF during the last three years*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT/ CCA	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Bihar	2.01	4.41	0.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.81	5.36	0.00
5.	Chandigarh	0.09	0.16	0.00
6.	Haryana	0.44	0.83	0.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jharkhand	2.53	4.84	0.00
10.	Karnataka	0.46	2.01	0.00
11.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Maharashtra	1.06	2.03	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9.40	17.94	0.00
14.	NE-I (Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram)	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	NE-II (Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh)	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Odisha	0.64	1.23	0.00
17.	Puducherry	0.58	1.10	0.00
18.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	13.16	26.25	0.00
20.	Uttarakhand	2.52	4.81	0.00
21.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL	35.70	70.98	0.00

Statement-III

State/UT-wise active subscribers of Wi-Fi services under BharatNet project

Sl. No.	State/UT	Active subscribers of Wi-Fi services under BharatNet
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
4.	Assam	0

1	2	3
5.	Bihar	20857
6.	Chandigarh	58
7.	Chhattisgarh	34008
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
9.	Daman and Diu	0
10.	Gujarat	0
11.	Haryana	65605
12.	Himachal Pradesh	311
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
14.	Jharkhand	32582
15.	Karnataka	90851
16.	Kerala	70036
17.	Lakshadweep	0
18.	Ladakh	0
19.	Madhya Pradesh	104655
20.	Maharashtra	50309
21.	Manipur	34
22.	Meghalaya	0
23.	Mizoram	0
24.	Nagaland	0
25.	Odisha	8365
26.	Puducherry	7068
27.	Punjab	0
28.	Rajasthan	11794
29.	Sikkim	0

1	2	3
30.	Telangana	0
31.	Tripura	0
32.	Uttar Pradesh	700021
33.	Uttarakhand	70519
34.	West Bengal	0
TOTAL		1267073

Utilisation of funds under NESIDS

1628. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the Total number of projects and its estimated budgets that have been selected under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) since 2017 till present;

(b) the Total utilization of funds of projects under the NESIDS, year-wise since 2017 till present;

(c) whether the Ministry has collected data regarding the delayed implementation of projects and if so, the list of projects that have been delayed and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Ministry has studied the economic impact of the NESIDS and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Total of 75 projects with estimated cost of ₹1918.12 crore has been selected under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) since 2017 till present. Out of these, 59 projects for ₹ 1835.35 crore have been sanctioned.

(b) The details of year-wise funds released/utilization is as under:—

(₹ in crore)

Financial Year	Funds released	Funds Utilized by State Government
2017-18	0.00	Nil
2018-19	20.70	Nil
2019-20	141.67	63.94