

others, Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 1.9.2020 has determined the AGR dues owed by the telecom companies, and the methodology of payment of these dues. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that at the first instance, the respective Telecom Operators shall make the payment of 10% of the total dues as demanded by DoT by 31.3.2021. The estimated revenue likely to be generated during 2020-21 will depend upon the amounts of payments made by the telecom companies.

(c) and (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 11.06.2020 in the AGR matter (Civil Appeal 6328-6399 of 2015) ordered inter alia as follows.

"It is apparent that the licences are different and our judgment in this case could not have been made the basis for raising the demand against public sector undertakings. Even otherwise, the public sector undertakings are not in the actual business of providing mobile services to the general public.

In the circumstances, let the Department of Telecom reconsider the demand that has been sprung, within three days from today, and on the next date of hearing report the compliance of the action taken on the basis of this order."

In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the representations received from non-telecom Public Sector Undertakings which have been duly recommended by their administrative Ministries, have been considered, and DoT has withdrawn demand notices for License Fee on non-telecom revenues of following PSUs namely Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Oil India Ltd. (OIL), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Education and Research Network (ERNET), National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI), Guj Info Petro Ltd. (GIPL) and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).

Response of BSNL and MTNL employees under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1295. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the response of BSNL and MTNL employees against the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to reduce the staff strength has been positive;
- (b) if so, the details of employees under each Group who have opted for VRS;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any timeline to retire the interested employees and if so the details thereof; and

(d) the details of standby plan formulated to ensure that the working of BSNL and MTNL is not adversely affected after the retirement of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has been successfully implemented in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). A total 92,956 employees (78,569 employees of BSNL and 14,387 employees of MTNL) opted for VRS. Group-wise details of employees opting for VRS in BSNL and MTNL are as under:

PSU	Executive	Non-Executive	Total
BSNL	13305	65264	78569
MTNL	1469	12918	14387

(c) The employees that opted for VRS were retired on 31.01.2020.

(d) The employee cost as a percentage of total income for the FY 2018-19 in BSNL and MTNL was 74.09 % and 87.15 % respectively before VRS and the same ranges from 2.95% to 5.59 % in the case of private Telecom Service Providers (TSPs).

After VRS, the number of employees in BSNL and MTNL are 71,057 and 4,325 respectively. BSNL and MTNL have informed that the existing staff is adequate to maintain the services with outsourcing of certain activities.

Revival of BSNL

1296. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the revival package of BSNL after retiring the BSNL and MTNL employees on voluntary basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether BSNL would be equipped enough under the revival package to compete with private players in providing service to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (d) The voluntary retirement scheme