

(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

(VRS) for the employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is part of the revival package approved by the Government on 23.10.2019.

The revival plan *inter-alia* includes measures like reduction in employee cost through Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), administrative allotment of spectrum for 4G services to BSNL/MTNL through capital infusion by the Government, debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds, monetization of assets of BSNL and MTNL to raise resources for retiring debt, CAPEX and other operational requirements and in principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL.

The revival plan is aimed at improving the financial condition of BSNL/MTNL so that they can provide improved services at competitive prices to its subscribers.

1297. *The Question was cancelled.*

Condition of services of BSNL

1298. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) to test a domestically consolidated end-to-end network for 4G services before selecting a telecom company, to upgrade its network;

(b) if so, whether the services of mobile as well as landline provided by BSNL are not up to the mark; and

(c) if so, the steps that Government has taken/ propose to take to upgrade the telecom services of BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (c) BSNL has informed that their mobile and landline services are working satisfactorily in their respective Licensed Service Areas (LSAs) and are meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory of India (TRAI). The Government approved a revival plan for BSNL and MTNL on 23.10.2019. The revival plan is aimed at improving the financial condition of BSNL/MTNL and enabling better services at competitive prices to its subscribers. BSNL is in the process of finalising its technical requirements of equipment for providing 4G services in its existing Licensed Service Areas.