

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1939
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05th AUGUST, 2021**

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF BSNL

1939 Dr. Fauzia Khan:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) the revenue generated, along with the profit or loss incurred by the BSNL during the last five years, year-wise and the current year along with the reasons for the same;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to save the jobs of permanent and temporary employees of the BSNL;
- (c) whether the income of the BSNL has declined during the said period and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the expenditure incurred by BSNL for salaries of its employees during the same period?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) The revenue generated, along with the profit or loss incurred by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last five years are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

| Year | Total Revenue/Income | Profit /(Loss) |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|
| 2016-17 | 31,533 | (4,794) |
| 2017-18 | 25,071 | (7,993) |
| 2018-19 | 19,321 | (14,904) |
| 2019-20 | 18,907 | (15,499) |
| 2020-21 | 18,595 | (7,441) |

Stiff competition in mobile segment resulting in lowering of tariffs, high salary cost and absence of 4G services (except at few places) in the data-centric telecom market are the main reasons for its losses.

(b) The Government has, inter-alia, taken following steps to make BSNL competitive and financially sound and this will also be financial for BSNL employees.

- (i) Successful implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.
- (ii) Administrative allocation of spectrum for 4G services to be achieved through capital infusion by the Government.
- (iii) Monetisation of core and non-core assets so as to address the liquidity requirement and re-payment of borrowings.
- (iv) Issue of sovereign guarantee of Rs. 8,500 crores to BSNL to raise bonds to retire high- cost debt.

(c) Yes Sir. The income of the BSNL has declined during the last five years. The details are given in part (a).

(d) The details of expenditure incurred on salary of employees of BSNL during last five years are as under:

| (Rupees in crores) | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------------|
| Year | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |
| Salary Expenditure | 15,715 | 14,837 | 14,316 | 13,597 | 6,679 [#] |

The salary cost has come down in 2020-21 due to reduction in manpower under Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) of BSNL effective from 31.01.2020.
