

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3423
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01ST APRIL, 2022**

FUNCTIONING OF BSNL AND MTNL

3423. SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- a) Government's plan to improve the quality of service and functioning of BSNL and MTNL;
- b) whether Government proposes to disinvest and/or merge the said telecom service providers;
- c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard;
- d) the total amount of spectrum allocation made to these companies;
- e) whether BSNL and MTNL have been fully equipped with 4G spectrum to ensure competitiveness in market;
- f) the total number of subscribers of BSNL and MTNL; and
- g) the total revenue and expenditure for BSNL and MTNL since 2017?

ANSWER

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

(a)to(c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) monitors the performance of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) against the benchmarks for various Quality of Service (QoS) parameters laid down by TRAI by way of QoS regulations issued from time to time, through Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs). BSNL and MTNL are meeting, in general, most of the QoS parameters for its cellular and basic services in its areas of operation.

The Government approved the revival plan for BSNL and MTNL on 23.10.2019 which inter-alia includes in-principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL. Due to financial reasons including high debt of MTNL, the merger of MTNL and BSNL has been deferred. At present, there is no proposal for the disinvestment of both PSUs.

(d) BSNL and MTNL together are having 116 MHz spectrum in 900 MHz band, 6 MHz in 1800 MHz band, 110 MHz spectrum in 2100 MHz band and 280 MHz spectrum in 2500 MHz band.

(e) The Government has approved a revival plan for BSNL and MTNL on 23.10.2019 which inter-alia includes administrative allotment of spectrum for providing pan-India 4G services with funding through budgetary allocation.

(f) As on 31.12.2021, the telephone subscriber base of BSNL and MTNL is 12,19,00,557 and 60,11,869 respectively.

(g) The total revenue and expenditure for BSNL and MTNL since 2017 is as follow:

(in Rs. crores)

Financial Year	BSNL		MTNL	
	Total revenue	Total expenditure	Total revenue	Total expenditure
2016-17	31,533	36,327	3,552	6,523
2017-18	25,071	33,809	3,116	6,087
2018-19	19,321	34,225	2,607	6,004
2019-20	18,907	34,406	2,227	6,038
2020-21	18,595	26,036	1,788	4,243
