

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 335
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

BSNL 4G ROLLOUT

335 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that BSNL appointed Boston Consulting Group (BCG) has recommended strategies for revival of BSNL that includes accelerating 4G rollout, enhancing service quality, and introducing a generative AI chatbot for consumer support;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to implement these recommendations and the specific actions being pursued for revival of BSNL; and
- (c) whether there are specific timelines set for BSNL's 4G and 5G rollout across various States and Union Territories, and if so, the expected timeline for completion in each region?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) & (b) M/s Boston Consulting Group(BCG) has submitted an interim report to BSNL management.

Further, Government has taken various steps for revival of BSNL. In 2019, first revival package amounting to around Rs. 69,000 Crore brought down the operating costs of BSNL/MTNL. In 2022, revival package amounting to around Rs. 1.64 Lakh Crore was given. It focused on infusing fresh capital, restructuring debt, viability gap funding for rural telephony etc. In 2023, Government approved the allotment of 4G/5G spectrum to BSNL with the total outlay of around Rs. 89 Thousand Crore.

- (c) In line with Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, BSNL has placed purchase order for indigenously developed 4G sites for pan India deployment. Supply of 4G equipment has started from September 2023 and as on 31.10.2024, total 50,708 4G sites have been installed and 41,957 sites are ON-Air. The equipment is 5G upgradable.
