

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO-281**  
**ANSWERED ON-18.07.2019**

Universal Service Obligation Fund

281 . Shri Amar Shankar Sable

- (a) whether Government proposes to spend ten thousand crore rupees from Universal Service Obligation Fund during the current financial year to boost basic amenities in rural areas under Digital India;
- (b) if so, the details of total amount spent during the last year along with remaining amount in the said fund, State wise;
- (c) the number of total Gram Panchayats and rural post offices connected with Optical Fibre Network in the country including Maharashtra; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in connecting all Gram Panchayats and rural post offices with Optical Fibre Network in the country including Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 281 FOR 18TH JULY, 2019 REGARDING "UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND".

- (a) Rs. 8,350 crore is proposed in the current financial year from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for telecom and broadband infrastructure facilities in rural areas.
- (b) Rs. 4788.22 Crore has been spent from USO Fund during the last financial year 2018-19. The detail of the amount State / UT wise is enclosed as Annexure-I. Rs. 50,542.30 Crore was available in the USO Fund at the end of F.Y. 2018-19.
- (c) The Broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats is being provided under BharatNet Project by BBNL. The connectivity to rural post offices is not covered under BharatNet Project. At present 1,31,392 GPs have been provided infrastructure for Broadband connectivity. Out of these GPs, 15,173 GPs are in Maharashtra.
- (d) The major reason for delay in providing optical fiber connectivity are as follows:

As per the modified strategy for implementation of BharatNet the project was targeted to be completed March 2019. The delay in the initial implementation of the project was on account of:

- (i) Delay in the initial commencement of project as the work on the project began in the second half of 2014 due to field survey of GPs and pilot testing of the technology model.
- (ii) Only one media that is underground OFC to cover GPs, and Right of Way (RoW) issues.

Since May 2016, with the constitution of the following committees, the issues are being resolved timely:

- i) Empowered Committee under Secretary, DoT
- ii) Steering Committee under Administrator, USOF.
- iii) State Committee under Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL for resolution of State level issues.

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**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2858  
ANSWERED ON-18.07.2019**

Loss due to subscribers opting for private telephones

2858 . Shri Anil Desai

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of telephone subscribers opted for another private telephone in their residences;
- (b) if so, the number of such subscribers who so opted during the last two years; and
- (c) the details of revenue loss due to this?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

(a) to (c) Data regarding the subscribers opting for multiple private telephones in their residences is not maintained in the Department.

However, as per the data on mobile number portability available with the Department, a total of 1,74,28,634 subscribers have been ported out of PSUs network (BSNL and MTNL put together) while 1,93,59,938 subscribers have been ported in the network till May 2019. Therefore the PSUs have gained 19,31,304 subscribers from private networks during the period.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
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**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2866**  
**ANSWERED ON-18.07.2019**

Lapse in depositing GPF contribution by BSNL

2866 . Shri K.K. Ragesh

- (a) whether there is any lapse in depositing the mandatory contribution of the General Provident Fund that BSNL is supposed to deposit with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any measures have been taken by Government to avoid such lapses in future;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
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(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) There is an average delay of one month.
- (c) Yes Sir.
- (d) For delayed receipt of GPF Contribution, penal interest has been demanded from BSNL.
- (e) 'Nil' in view of (d) above.

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO-273**  
**ANSWERED ON-18.07.2019**  
Connectivity issue in Niti Valley

273 . Shri P.L. Punia

- (a) whether it is a fact that eleven villages of Niti Valley located along Indo-China border are disconnected for the last two months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the communication service in the outposts of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Army and Border Roads Organisation along with the villages is also completely disrupted and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the reasons for not fixing the technical faults in the satellite even after two months?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 273 FOR 18TH JULY, 2019 REGARDING "CONNECTIVITY ISSUE IN NITI VALLEY".

(a) to (d) Sir. All the Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) have been disrupted in the villages of Niti valley located along Indo-China border.

For providing communication service through Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPT), approximately 25 MHz bandwidth on NSS-6 Satellite (non-indigenous satellite) was procured by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) from M/s Antrix, a subsidiary of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). Citing the security concern, M/s Antrix repeatedly asked BSNL to migrate DSPT services from NSS-6 Satellite to GSAT-18 Satellite (indigenous satellite). However, BSNL requested M/s Antrix to continue the DSPT services on NSS-6 Satellite as a lot of activities such as re-orientation of antenna / relocation of antenna mount etc. were involved. Moreover, a huge expenditure was also involved in various migration activities.

M/s Antrix w.e.f 13-05-2019 turned off the transponder of NSS-6 Satellite stating that the said Satellite has already completed its life. Due to this, the DSPT services got discontinued w.e.f. 13-05-2019 onwards.

The communication services provided through DSPTs are also disrupted in the outposts of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Army and Border Roads Organisation for the reasons detailed above.

However, at present I-SAT Phones are available at Border Out Posts (BOPs) for operational communication. BSNL appraised the reason for discontinuation of DSPT services to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) / Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) requesting financial support in carrying out the migration activity

which is a time taking activity (20-25 weeks) for re-orientation of antenna at each location, relocation of antennas wherever needed and also involve substantial cost. Various possibilities of providing telecom services in these areas are being explored for early restoration of services.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
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**STARRED QUESTION NO-274**  
**ANSWERED ON-18.07.2019**  
Performance of BSNL

- (a) whether it is a fact that 54,000 BSNL employees are in danger of losing their jobs and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) if not, the present status of BSNL in terms of effective performance and competitiveness;
- (c) whether any survey has been done/ approved by Government, to identify the overall performance of BSNL in comparison to other competing companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND  
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 274 FOR 18TH JULY, 2019 REGARDING “PERFORMANCE OF BSNL”.

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has informed that no proposal to lay off over 54,000 employees has been approved by BSNL.

(b) As informed by BSNL, as per TRAI report the total market share of BSNL is as follows:

Market Share in terms of subscribers (in %age)

BSNL As on 31.03.2017 As on 31.03.2018 As on 31.03.2019

Wireless (Mobile) 8.66 9.44 9.96

Wireline 56.15 53.78 51.47

Total 9.63 10.26 10.72

However, stiff competition in mobile segment, high employee cost and absence of 4G services (except in few places for BSNL) in the data-centric telecom market is adversely affecting the competitive strength of BSNL.

(c) & (d) No survey has been done/approved by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to identify the overall performance of the BSNL in comparison to other competing companies.

However, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) releases monthly telecom subscription report that gives Telecom Service Provider (TSP) wise total number of wireline/wireless subscribers and net addition of subscribers during the month. TRAI also monitors the performance of TSPs including BSNL against the benchmark 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).

As per PMR issued by TRAI for the quarter ending March 2019, for Basic Wireline Services, all the service providers are largely complying with benchmark for all the parameters in all the service areas. Non-Compliance is noticed in the network of M/s Airtel and Tata in 9 instances each, BSNL in 2 instances and MTNL in 1 instance. For Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, all the service providers are largely complying with benchmark for all the parameters in all the service areas. Non-Compliance is noticed in the network of M/s Vodafone Idea Limited in 39 instances (30 for Vodafone and 9 for Idea), M/s Tata in 21 instances, M/s RJio in 4 instances, M/s Airtel in 3 instances and BSNL in 2 instances. For Broadband Services, all the service providers including BSNL are largely complying with benchmark for all the parameters in all the service areas. Non-Compliance is noticed in the network of M/s Atria Convergence, M/s TTS(M)L, M/s TTSL and You Broadband in 2 instances each and M/s Tata Sky Broadband Private Limited in 1 instance.