

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

REVIVAL PACKAGE FOR BSNL

1133. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of the revival package for BSNL, the details of the so called revival package;
- (b) how many employees have so far opted for premature retirement as announced by BSNL;
- (c) how many employees working as permanent as well as contractual staff have committed suicide till date, if so, the reasons for such incidents; and
- (d) how many months salary is pending to be disbursed for different section of workers and by when it is expected to be transferred?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS,
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)**

- (a) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 23.10.2019 approved the revival plan for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which inter-alia, includes measures to reduce the staff cost by offering Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to the employees of age 50 years and above, administrative allotment of spectrum to BSNL for providing 4G services, monetisation of assets of BSNL, debt restructuring by raising of sovereign guarantee bonds and in-principle approval for merger of BSNL and MTNL.
- (b) As on 23.11.2019, around 78,000 employees of BSNL have opted for VRS. However, the scheme is open till 03.12.2019 and the actual number will be known thereafter.
- (c) BSNL has informed that it does not employ contractual staff. Contract workers are engaged by contractors for specific outsourced work. No incident of suicide by BSNL staff is reported. However, one security guard at Kharagpur, West Bengal circle and one contract worker at Malappuram, Kerala circle have reportedly committed suicide due to unknown reasons. The matter is under investigation by respective state authorities.
- (d) BSNL has reported that salary to its regular employees for the month of October 2019 is to be disbursed. The responsibility of payment to the contract workers essentially lies with the Contractor. However, due to severe financial constraints, delay in payment to contractors by BSNL has occurred in recent months. All efforts are being made by BSNL to overcome the situation including payment of bills of contractors for making payment of wages/arrears to contract workers.
