

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3094  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2009  
DISINVESTMENT IN BSNL  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to disinvest in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) for its development and expansion purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total amount available with BSNL at present and the amount required for its development and expansion plan; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) & (b) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons:

- # will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status;
- # will promote growth of BSNL.
- # will provide an access to the capital market for raising fresh equity capital, if required.

(c) & (d) The total amount available (Cash and bank balance) with BSNL as on 31.03.2009 is Rs.35337 crores and the amount required for development and expansion plan for the year 2009-10 is Rs.14015 crores. Thus, presently BSNL is able to meet all its fund requirements from internal resources.