

BSNL to become leading operator again: CMD

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DHARAMSHALA: State-run [BSNL](#) is expanding network capacity and it will become a leading telecom [operator](#) again, its [Chairman and Managing Director](#) R K Upadhyay said today.

"We lagged behind other private companies, as we could not purchase the required equipment in the last 4-5 years due to many reasons. Now everything is OK and tenders to purchase has been floated," he told reporters here.

"BSNL has planned a Rs 40,000 crore capital for the purpose," he added.

He also said that the company is emphasising on converting present telephone exchanges into New Generation network NGN, to give all mobile facilities to land line subscribers.

"29,000 such exchanges shall be converted to NGN of which 28,000 are in the rural sector," he said.

On cutting costs, Upadhyay said the PSU is awaiting government's approval for offering VRS to employees.

"BSNL is spending 52 per cent of its capital in employees salaries as compared to other competitive companies who are just spending 5-6 per cent," he said.

On resumption of network in flood-ravaged Uttarakhand, he said: "70 telephone exchanges were affected in Uttarakhand tragedy and only 7 are to be restored now .. all the 400 towers are now working there."

He said that BSNL could respond to 4000 calls to give last location of lost persons through their cell phones record in last seven days.

He also said that the remote areas of Himachal shall be connected through Microwave so that fiber cable disconnection in bad conditions could be avoided.