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## BSNL plans to trim landline operations, cut jobs

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KOLKATA: State-run [Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd](#) (BSNL) plans to sharply scale down the manpower strength of its beleaguered landline business, which accounts for nearly 65% of its 2.77 lakh-strong workforce, in one of the boldest moves to transform the loss-making telco into a nimble, profit-making organisation.

"Poor revenues coupled with a steep reduction in the number of landline connections over the past three years from some 34 million to under 25 million has made a sizeable number of positions and functions in the [consumer fixed access](#) (CFA) division redundant. A review of the manpower requirement is underway, but we are yet to take a call on which positions to retain and which to abolish," a top company executive with direct knowledge of the development told ET.

At present, [BSNL](#) is doing an internal assessment of whether its loss-making landline business justifies the existence of innumerable phone mechanics, [telecom](#) technical assistants, regular mazdoors and junior telecom officers who collectively number more than a whopping 1.5 lakh on its rolls.

The number of staff functions in the [CFA](#) business is directly linked to the number of active landlines. But the growing instances of people surrendering their landlines has induced BSNL's senior management to consider outsourcing a host of activities, including operations & maintenance.

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