

(d) whether the Association of Competitive Telecom Operators (ACTO) have requested Government to take corrective steps on double taxation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether DoT committee also recommended to scrap the double taxation structure on foreign carriers operating in India; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Sir, National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) voice and data traffic in India is carried by licensed Indian NLD and ILD operators only. As per terms and conditions of NLD and ILD licenses, a licensed NLD/ILD operator is permitted to obtain bandwidth from other licensed NLD/ILD operators.

(c) As per terms and conditions of NLD/ILD license, the licensee company has to pay 6% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) as license fee.

(d) to (g) Association of Competitive Telecom Operators (ACTO) had requested to allow the deduction of bandwidth procurement charges while calculating AGR for payment of licensee fee. However, the request of ACTO has not been agreed to by the Department.

Free handsets and talk time to BPL families

2147. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether Government is considering any programme to provide free handsets and free talk time to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families by using unused Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Pension scheme for ED employees

2148. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the pension scheme for the Extra-Departmental (ED) employees working in Postal Department;

(b) if so, the details of the pension scheme; and