

Under the AIDP Scheme, budget allocation for 2009-10 was Rs. 79 crores, which has been enhanced to Rs. 100 crores in 2010-11. With this enhanced allocation, 2.5 lakhs Persons with Disabilities are expected to be benefitted under the Scheme in 2010-11.

Funds for Tribal Welfare

*283. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether allocation of funds for tribal welfare in the current Five Year Plan and Annual Plan of 2009-10 has been utilized as per target;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) :

(a) to (c) The details of funds allocated and utilized in the current Five Year Plan and 2009-10 are as under :

(Rs. in crore)					
Year	BE	RE	Expenditure	Amount surrendered	% age of Expenditure over BE
2007-2008	1719.71	1719.71	1524.319	195.3913	88.63
2008-2009	2121.00	1970.00	1805.2723	315.7277	85.11
2009-2010	3205.50	2000.00	1997.31	1206.09	62.30

Savings occurred mainly on account of non-receipt of adequate number of complete proposals from the State Governments/UTs, lack of proposals, late receipt of proposals from NGOs/Voluntary Organizations, non-receipt of Utilization Certificates and slow pace of utilization of funds or physical progress in the projects by the implementing agencies.

Audit of Telecom Companies

*284. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG is taking up the audit of some of the telecom companies like Reliance, Bharti, Vodafone, Tata and BSNL;

(b) if so, the time-frame by which the audit of these companies would start;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some of the other established companies like Aircel, Idea, HFCL, Syam Sistema, BPL, Spice and MTNL had not been included in the CAG audit;

(d) if so, the reasons for not including these companies in the purview of CAG audit; and

(e) whether CAG would audit the accounts of all telecom companies irrespective of dealing with mobile and fixed services, NLD and ILD, internet or SAT services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CAG has conveyed that it will audit the accounts of Reliance, Bharti, Vodafone, Tata and BSNL in the current year.

(c) As conveyed by CAG, it will audit the books of accounts of all telecom service providers on a regular basis. In the current year, the audit of the accounts of Reliance, Bharti and Vodafone, Tata and BSNL has been taken up.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Foreign citizen coming of India

*285. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any regulations for foreign citizens coming to India for long term stay, based on H-1B status; and

(b) if not, whether Government is planning to take steps to remove mention of this regulation from the Visa application forms available from Indian embassies in several countries, and from other official sources like Government websites?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The long term stay visas are granted to the foreign citizens, by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad, based on the rules and regulations issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Tariff cuts by telecom operators

*286. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has decided to intervene in the recent tariff cuts offered by telecom operators by seeking information/business case/costs of operators;

(b) if so, the objective thereof and the provision of TRAI Act under which it has thus acted;

(c) whether TRAI believes that this is a case of predatory pricing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor, especially given the relatively small market size of the operators in question?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is, at present, no proposal for intervention by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in the tariff offered by telecom operators.