

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Sir, the three member panel has suggested setting up of BSNL venture fund to invest and/or acquire small appropriate technology companies with strategic values to encourage local innovation, local manufacturing and new business opportunities.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Regulation of tower business

†3729. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is framing a policy to regulate the tower business of telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the telecom companies are arbitrarily doing the installation work of tower; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has started pre-consultation process on "Telecom Towers and Related Issues" on 5th February, 2010, for seeking stakeholders' comments. Based on the inputs received from stakeholders, TRAI is contemplating to float a consultation paper on the issues pertaining to telecom towers.

(c) and (d) Mobile Towers are being installed by the Telecom Service Providers based on sitting clearances issued by Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Department of Telecommunications (DoT). No arbitrariness is observed by DoT in installation of towers cleared by WPC. However, before installation of towers, Service providers have to obtain necessary clearances for concerned Municipal Authorities/local bodies.

Dubious links of BSNL officials with Chinese firms

3730. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some top officials of the BSNL are having dubious links with Chinese firms;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.