

[27 July, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

as stipulated by the UN Compensation Commission (UNCC). Of these, claims of 31,817 persons have already been settled. A total amount of approx. US\$ 250 million has already been paid to them by the UNCC.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has requested the UNCC to extend the prescribed-time limit for submission of applications on several occasions. So far, UNCC has expressed its inability to accede to the requests of Government of India for extension of the deadline of 1st January, 1996 for acceptance of new claims.

Committee for unbundling of copper cables

*69. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:

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

(a) whether a Committee has been set up for unbundling of copper cables of BSNL/MTNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee alongwith the names of Members thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) An Inter-Ministerial Committee on Information, Communication and Entertainment (ICE) under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister was constituted by Prime Minister's Office to examine issues and new opportunities in the areas of information, communication and entertainment. Based upon its deliberations, it was suggested that six sub-groups may be constituted for specific areas like Broadband development, animation and gaming, going digital, forming out surplus bandwidth, unbundling the local loop and creating a global presence for strategic purposes. Based upon the deliberations in the meeting of committee on ICE, Department of Telecommunications constituted a subgroup to discuss issues pertaining to unbundling of local loops.

(c) Keeping in view the thrust of the deliberation of ICE the following terms of reference were prescribed for discussion in the sub-group:

- (i) Identifying constraints in the local loop unbundling,
- (ii) Finalising the strategies for overcoming these constraints,
- (iii) Quantum and mechanism of compensation for incumbent operators,
- (iv) Formulating time table for unbundling.
- (v) Any other issues the members of the sub-group may consider necessary to considered by the sub- group.

The members of the sub-group are as follows:

- (i) Secretary, Department of Telecommunications.
- (ii) Member(Finance), Telecom Commission, Department of Telecommunications.
- (iii) Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund, Department of Telecommunications,
- (iv) Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office,
- (v) Advisor (C&I), Planning Commission,
- (vi) Director (Operations), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,
- (vii) Director (Technical), Managar Telephone Nigam Limited,
- (viii) Deputy Director General (Basic Services), Department of Telecommunications,
- (ix) Shri, Amit Mitra, Chairman, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- (x) Shri Kiran Karnik, President, National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).
- (xi) Shri TV. Ramachandran, Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India,
- (xii) ShriS.C.Khanna, Secretary General, Association of Unified Service Providers of India.

Violation of TRAI guidelines

*70. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some service providers are not following required norms, laid by TRAI, regarding proof of address of the subscriber;