

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Sir, Access Deficit Charge (ADC) regime was put in place by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to assist in sustainability of fixed line operations in competitive environment for below cost services. ADC was started from 1st May, 2003 for giving sufficient time to fixed line operators for rebalancing the tariffs in the transition period. ADC was instituted as a depleting regime to be phased out in 3 to 5 years. Review of ADC was done annually. TRAI has phased out the ADC on domestic calls *w.e.f.* 1.4.2008 and on international incoming calls *w.e.f.* 1.10.2008. The phasing out of ADC by TRAI was accompanied with the simultaneous support of BSNL's rural wire line network through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) as subsidy.

USOF is providing subsidy to BSNL for the operational sustainability of the rural wire lines installed prior to 01.04.2002 at the rate of Rs. 2000 crores per annum for a period of three years from 18th July, 2008. Till 30.6.2010, subsidy support of Rs. 2907.61 crores has been provided to BSNL under this scheme.

BSNL Managements

1988. SHRI SMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state by when Government is going to give BSNL Management complete freedom to decide and finalize its commercial and business policies and procurement of equipment without any political/bureaucratic interference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Sir, BSNL management is completely free to decide and finalize its commercial and business policies and procurement of equipment without any political and bureaucratic interference. However, BSNL has been signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on yearly basis in accordance with the MoU guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises. The review of the same is held on quarterly basis. Further, various interactions on overall performance of BSNL, quality of service offered by it, suggestions for improving the services etc. also happen on periodic basis at various levels in DoT.