

#### **Licences to existing mobile phone firms**

3201. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether TRAI has recently warned the Ministry against making any modifications to licences of existing mobile phone firms without consulting the authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the differences between TRAI and the Ministry has created confusion over implementation of several policy decisions; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to remove such differences etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Sir, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), on 23.07.2010, has written to Department of Telecommunications that in case the Government proposes to make any modification, restriction or expansion of scope of the terms and conditions of the existing licences, it can do so only after obtaining its recommendations and likewise, new licences can be processed only after seeking its recommendations.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

#### **Setting up of testing laboratory**

3202. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to set up a testing laboratory to facilitate and address concerns on security related issues pertaining to the telecom sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the DoT has worked out norms for setting up the laboratories with the Ministry of Home Affairs; and
- (d) if so, to what extent the equipments from foreign telecom vendors are likely to be screened before their practical use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to set up a Telecom equipment testing centre in principle. Pilot laboratory for this purpose has been set up at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. The Government has also made it mandatory for the telecom service providers to provide the test bed facilities for testing of telecom equipments before installing in the field.

(c) and (d) Testing is envisaged to be done as per prevailing International standards for this purpose. Core equipment and equipment vulnerable to attack are likely to be tested.