

National Policy on Broadband

2677. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that TRAI is planning to come out with a National Policy on Broadband;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy; and
- (c) in what manner the policy would be consumer-friendly and help in increasing the broadband connectivity in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation paper on “National Broadband Plan” on 10th January, 2010. Various issues affecting the growth of broadband such as, Non-availability of National Broadband Network to provide connectivity upto village level, Non-availability of Content in Varnacular Languages, Low English Literacy, Affordability of Customer Premises Equipment, Right to Way, International Bandwidth Prices, Affordability of Broadband etc. have been discussed in the Consultation paper. On the basis of inputs received, TRAI is processing the framing of the recommendations of National Broadband Plan.

Licences for 2G spectrum

†2678. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had given licences for 2G spectrum to nine companies on the first come first served basis at the fees fixed in the year 2001;
- (b) if so, the names of these companies, the experience these companies had in the respective areas; and
- (c) the names of the companies out of above said companies which were operational in the country in September, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the decision of the Government in year 2003, the Unified Access Services (UAS) licences were being granted on First-Come-First Served’ (FCFS basis since introduction of UAS licensing regime in November, 2003 with the entry fee for the 4th Cellular Mobile Telephone

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Service (CMTS) licence(s) awarded in 2001 and in service areas where there were no 4th operator, the entry fee of existing Basic Service Operator (BSO) fixed by the Government in 2001 based on TRAI's recommendation. After enhancement of FDI in telecom sector from 49% to 74%, Department of Telecom (DoT), on 14.12.2005 issued Guidelines for Unified Access Services (UAS) licences where experience of telecom sector was to more a criteria for grant of UAS licences. The Government granted 122 Unified Access Services (UAS) licences in the year 2008 to 17 applicant companies in terms of the extant UAS Licence Guidelines dated 14.12.2005. A list containing present names of the 17 UAS licensee companies is enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(c) As no Unified Access Service (UAS) licence has been surrendered or terminated from the UAS Licences granted to the companies in 2008, all were operational as on 30.9.2010 except 6 overlapping licenses of M/s. IDEA and M/s. Spice, which are non-operational as per information received from M/s. IDEA. However, following information has been given by the companies to whom UAS licenses were granted in 2008 in respect of Merger/De-merger:—

- M/s Allianz Infratech Pvt. Ltd., who was holding the two UAS licenses have merged with M/s Etisalat DP Telecom Limited as per orders of Hon'ble Court.
- M/s Spice Communications Limited, who was holding the six UAS licenses have merged with M/s Idea Cellular Limited as per orders of Hon'ble High Court(s). Due to this merger, 6 UAS licences are overlapping and non-operational as informed by company.
- The companies holding the 21 UAS licenses granted to Unitech Wireless (Delhi) Private Limited, Unitech Wireless (East) Private Limited, Unitech Wireless (West) Private Limited, Unitech Wireless (North) Private Limited, Unitech Wireless (South) Private Limited, Unitech Wireless (Kolkatta) Private Limited, Unitech Wireless (Mumbai) Private Limited ("Transferee Company") have merged with Unitech Wirless (Tamil Nadu) Private Limited ("Transferee Company") as per orders of Hon'ble High Court(s).

Statement

Name of Companies who were granted UAS licences in the year 2008

Sl.No.	Name of Licensee Company
1	2
1.	Allianz Infratech Pvt. Ltd.
2.	Etisalat DB Telecom Pvt. Ltd.
3.	Idea Cellular Ltd.
4.	Loop Telecom Ltd.

1	2
5.	S Tel Pvt. Ltd.
6.	Sistema Shyam Tele Service Ltd.
7.	Spice Communications Ltd.
8.	Tata Teleservices Ltd.
9.	Unitech Wireless (Delhi) Pvt. Ltd.
10.	Unitech Wireless (East) Pvt. Ltd.
11.	Unitech Wireless (Kolkata) Pvt. Ltd.
12.	Unitech Wireless (Mumbai) Pvt. Ltd.
13.	Unitech Wireless (North) Pvt. Ltd.
14.	Unitech Wireless (South) Pvt. Ltd.
15.	Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Pvt. Ltd.
16.	Unitech Wireless (West) Pvt. Ltd.
17.	Videocon Telecommunications Ltd.

Expansion of communication system

†2679. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the aim of Government was expansion of communication system while allocating 2G spectrum;

(b) if so, whether the consent of Prime Minister was taken in this policy decision;

(c) if so, the time when the consent of Prime Minister was taken; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the allocation of 2G spectrum in 2008 was made on the basis of licence fees fixed in 2001 and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.