

### **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 Vernacular 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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.