

issues and not limited merely to issues raised by parties before the Hon'ble TDSAT. TRAI therefore requested M/s Bharti Airtel to participate and co-operate in the consultation process in positive manner to the benefit of all stakeholders.

Following the elaborate consultation process, TRAI has taken up the finalization of Interconnection Usage Charges. In this regard after receiving comments/counter comments on pre-consultation/consultation paper, Open House Discussions were held on 25.05.2011 at New Delhi. Subsequently Interactive sessions/meetings on cost model(s) with service providers were also held.

Use of diesel for running telecom communication towers

‡2688. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than four lakh towers are being operated under telephone communication systems in the country;

(b) if so, their actual number;

(c) whether diesel is being utilised as fuel in these towers; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the annual requirement of diesel therefor and whether this diesel is made available on subsidised prices?

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

(b) Standing Advisory Committee of Radio Frequency Allocation (SACFA) WPC Wing, DoT, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has issued sitting clearances for 5,27,655 number of towers for the purpose of provision of mobile Telephone Communication system till date.

(c) Telecom Communication Towers are mostly operated from the Grid Power Supply. Diesel Generator Sets are provided as a standby and are operated during the load shedding period. Wherever no Grid Power Supply is available, the diesel is being utilized as a fuel entirely to power the Telecom Communication Towers.

(d) Depending on the availability of Grid Power, Diesel Generator sets are being operated and the annual requirement of diesel depends on the number of hours the Diesel Generator set is run. Diesel available in the market is being used by Telecom Companies to power for the Telecom Communication Towers.

Competition with private postal companies

2689. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.