

**Report on industry's requirements for mobile and  
communications development**

1826. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether any comprehensive report is being submitted by Indian Cellular Association/Cellular Operators Association of India to DoT with details of the industry's requirements for mobile and communications development in the country under 'Make in India' programme, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : No Sir. However, a Fast Track Task Force, chaired by President, Indian Cellular Association (ICA) and having members from industry and Government, has been constituted by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology to re-establish and catalyse significant growth in mobile handset and component manufacturing eco-system in India.

**Electronics Development Fund policy**

1827. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to develop Electronic Development Fund (EDF) policy;
- (b) if so, the aims and objectives for setting up EDF;
- (c) whether this policy will include development of domestic design capabilities, creating intellectual property (II) rights, development of nano-electronics and IT, etc;
- (d) whether the policy aims at reducing trade deficit for the segment of exports and imports; and
- (e) the structure for such mechanism and the time period for framing and implementation of such policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) to (e) Government of India has notified Electronic Development Fund (EDF) policy on 6th January, 2015 and it was published in Gazette of India on 9th January 2015.

The objective of the EDF policy is to support Daughter Funds including Early

Stage Angel Funds and Venture Funds in the area of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing, Nano-electronics and IT. The supported Daughter Funds will promote innovation, R&D, product development within the country in the specified fields of ESDM, nano-electronics and IT.

The Electronics Development Fund (EDF) shall be created in a financial institution like SIDBI or a similar organization.

It is expected that the start-ups and other intellectual property generated from such innovation will lead to creating a vibrant electronics product eco-system in the country. These products will meet both domestic demand as well as opportunities to export in other countries.

Some of the salient features of the policy are:

- (i) A Daughter Fund, to be eligible for support by the EDF, should be created within India, as per Indian laws and regulations.
- (ii) The Daughter Funds supported under the EDF should be professionally managed.
- (iii) An EDF Management Board including representatives of Department of Electronics and IT, Government of India, will be set up by the financial institution housing the EDF policy.
- (iv) The Funds realized on exit from Daughter Funds would be recycled through the EDF.
- (v) The policy would be available for approval of new Daughter Funds upto 31.3.2017.

#### **Section 66A of the IT Act**

1828.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government believes that Section 66A of the Information Technology Act in its current form is in contravention to Article 19 of the Constitution; and
- (b) whether in view of its laudable Digital India ambition of bringing a billion Indians online, Government believes that Section 66A in its current form will impede its policy goals?