

(c) Orders on eligible bidders shall be placed as per terms & conditions of the tender.

Setting up of Communication Commission

127. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Communication Commission of India as a super regulator and super faciliator for Telecom, Broadcast, Multimedia and related technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up for examining these subjects under the Chairmanship of Shri Fali S. Nariman;

(d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(e) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) A specific term of reference of the Group on Telecom & IT Convergence appointed by the Government is to prepare the draft of a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics. The Group had subsequently constituted a Sub-Group with Shri Fali S. Nariman, MP as the Convenor for the preparation of the above said draft. The Sub-Group has *inter-alia*, recommended the establishment of a single autonomous and independent statutory body to be known as the Communications Commission of India to regulate all forms of communications. The Commission would be empowered to issue licences, determine licence fees and tariffs for licenced services, allot spectrum, facilitate competition, protect consumer interests, etc. The Sub-Group has also recommended the setting up of a Communications Appellate Tribunal.

The recommendations of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence in this regard are awaited.

(e) does not arise in view of the above.

Penalty on Private Telecom Companies

128. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private telecom companies have failed to fulfil their commitments;