

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2275  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000  
LICENCE FEE FOR VSAT.  
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether presently licence fee for Very Small Aperture Terminals in India is the highest in the world; and  
(b) if so, the steps the Government envisage to reduce the licence fee?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Government does not have information to indicate that the present licence fee for Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT) in India is highest in the world. However, Government had requested Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for recommendations on licence fee for VSAT. TRAI has given their recommendations to Government on licence fee for VSAT which are as follows:-

Licence fee per VSAT for basic Rate bearer service i.e. 64 kbps:

1 to 500 VSATs - Rs. 20,000 per VSAT per annum with a minimum amount of Rs. 30 lakhs per annum.

501 to 1000 VSATs - Rs. 15,000 per VSAT per annum with a minimum amount of Rs. 100 lakhs per annum.

Above 1000 VSATs - Rs. 10,000 per VSAT per annum with a minimum amount of Rs. 150 lakhs per annum.

the amount of Rs. 30 lakhs which is stipulated as the minimum licence fee also serves the purpose of an entry fee.

The above licence fee recommended by TRAI is much lower than the present licence fee of Rs. 50,000 per VSAT per annum. Government is yet to take a decision on the matter.