

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5414
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
TELECOM DISPUTE SETTLEMENT APPELLATE TRIBUNAL
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIŞ;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have set up Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) in all the States particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the government have set up these TDSATs with the intention of quick and efficient redressal of mechanism for the telecom sector as reported in the `Times of India` dated March 21,2001;
- (d) if so, whether TDSATs, have been successful to settle the cases;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997(24 of 1997), the Central Government had established the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal vide notification dated 29th May, 2000. In terms of Section 14B(3) of the Act, the jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal may be exercised by the Benches thereof to be constituted by the Chairperson of the Tribunal. The Benches of the Appellate Tribunal shall ordinarily sit at New Delhi and such other places as the Central Government may, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, notify. At present the Appellate Tribunal is functioning at New Delhi.

(c) The dispute settlement function was, inter alia, strengthened as part of the amendments carried out last year to the TRAI Act. Accordingly, as per sections 14(a) & (b) of the TRAI Act, 1997, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal has been established to adjudicate any dispute between a licensor and a licensee, between two or more service providers, between a service provider and group of consumers, and to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction, decision or order of TRAI.

(d) to (f): After the establishment of the Appellate Tribunal, it has received six petitions and six appeals, and has started hearing of cases. In a few cases, interim orders have also been passed. Besides these, the Appellate Tribunal has also received sixteen petitions transferred from TRAI under Section 14M of the TRAI Act.