

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4385

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000

REPORT BY SUB-GROUP OF MINISTERS

DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;SUBODH MOHITE;SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI;TRILOCHAN KANUNGO;VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 163 dated July 24, 2000 regarding Report by Sub-Group of Ministers and state:

(a) whether the Sub-Group considering the new legislation to replace Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and regulate the conversions of telecommunications, infotech and television broadcasting has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) if not, the time by which the said report is likely to be submitted?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): 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 in its report 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 Group on Telecom & IT Convergence, after discussing this report, has requested the Sub-Group to prepare a suitable draft of the proposed statute.