

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6515
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
LIMITATION OF SHORT DISTANCE CHARGING AREA SERVICE
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the limitation of the short distance charging area (SDCA) service and non-availability of roaming have been admitted by DOT in an affidavit before TDSAT and in written submissions in the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the private WLL (Mobile) operators are publishing misleading advertisement in contravention to the above admitted stand of the DOT;
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the private operators and the date of advertisement;
- (e) whether the Government propose to take action against the operators; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been indicated that Basic Service Operator shall be allowed to provide mobility to its subscribers with Wireless Access Systems limited within the local area i.e. Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in which the subscriber is registered. While deploying such systems, the operator has to follow numbering plan of that Short Distance Charging Area(SDCA) and it should not be possible to authenticate and work with the subscriber terminal equipment in SDCAs other than the one in which it is registered. The system shall also be engineered so as to ensure that hand over of subscriber does not take place from one SDCA to another SDCA while communicating.

(c)&(d) Certain advertisements were published by M/S Reliance Infocomm Ltd. indicating availability of roaming in the second week of February, 2003 in various newspapers.

(e)&(f) The matter was raised in a meeting held in the Department of Telecommunications with various basic service operators as well as cellular operators on 14th Feb. 2003. During the meeting, M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. informed that they are not violating the terms and conditions of Licence and Mobility is restricted within Short Distance Charging Area in which Subscriber is registered. Further they informed that the advertisements indicating roaming facilities shall be withdrawn with immediate effect. Since then, no such advertisement has come to notice. According to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, TRAI is to ensure that the terms and conditions of the licence are being adhered to. This matter had also come to the notice of TRAI who had called for a report from M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. had intimated TRAI that services proposed to be offered by them are not the same as the roaming service offered by cellular operators; and that in order to avoid any confusion in the minds of the customers they have decided to withdraw the word `roaming` from their advertisements.