

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7439

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BSNL AND PRIVATE OPERATORS ON TELEPHONE ISSUES

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

(a) whether there is a differences between the BSNL and private operators on the issue of interconnection in matters like scope and definition of services, point of interconnection, network management, technical specifications and standards, billing and settlement and commercial terms and conditions etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in which manner and the time by which the Government propose to resolve these differences?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): As per normal procedure the Interconnect Agreement with the Private Operators is signed by BSNL in accordance with the terms and conditions of the License Agreement and the Determination and Regulations issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). BSNL has already signed 28 Interconnect Agreement with all those Basic Operators who wanted to start the Basic Telephone Services in different parts of the country. BSNL has also signed 23 Interconnect Agreement with Cellular Operators who wanted to operate Cellular Mobile Services in their choice areas of the country.

However, there are few differences between BSNL and some Private Operators who insist on certain technical, commercial and financial arrangements, which are normally not permissible as per the existing rules and regulations and are to be mutually negotiated and to be agreed upon by the two operators. In case of any dispute or disagreement among the Service Providers in signing of the Interconnect Agreement, the matter is required to be referred to TRAI or Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) as per TRAI (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing) Regulation 2001 dated 14th December 2001. Government has not assigned itself any role on the issues of Interconnection between the two operators.

However to facilitate faster settlement of Interconnect Agreements between the Service Providers, TRAI has issued a consultation paper for Draft Reference Interconnect Offer.