GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1084
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
POLICY ON BROADBAND
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended a broadband policy;

(b) if so, whether the authority has finalised the recommendations and submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations made by the TRAI?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have submitted the recommendations to the Government on accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband penetration.

(c) Details regarding the TRAI recommendations are given in Annexure.

(d) The recommendations are under examination by the Government and would be implemented in consultation with TRAI.

ANNEXURE

Details regarding the TRAI recommendations on accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband Penetration

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1. Definition and goals


? Broadband is an `An always-on data connection that is able to support various
 interactive services, and has the capability of a minimum download speed of 256 Kbps.`
 This will be revised upwards in the future.
? India can achieve 20 million broadband and 40 million internet subscribers by 2010,
 which translate to penetration levels of 1.7% and 3.4%, respectively.  This is a
 bare minimum target and will need to be upgraded as progress is made.


2. Access to the customer in the last mile


? Enabling the use of the existing infrastructure on the incumbents` copper to reach
 customers via Digital Subscriber Loop (DSL).
? Decreasing artificial costs in the operation of Direct to Home (DTH) and Very small
 aperture Terminal (VSAT) platforms, while allowing broadband services to be offered
 via these technologies.
? Allowing terrestrial wireless solutions to spread more effectively as a means to
 reach customers with today`s technologies, as well as those in the near future.
? Enabling right of way clearance systems to be further streamlines for both current
 and future build-out efforts.


3. Costs of backhaul networks


? Allowing customers to realize the benefits of competition in domestic leased lines
 while compensating for the current lack of such competition in `within city` links.
? Identifying the steps that need to be taken to make National Internet Exchange of
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India (NIXI) effective and attractive for Internet Service Providers (ISP`s) of all
sizes to willingly participate

4. Fiscal policies

? Encouraging the availability of low cost access devices through depreciation, donation
 and recycling of used Personal Computers (PC`s).
? Decreasing to the level of duties on mobile phones the current overall levels of duties
 for imported items used in broadband networks, and equalizing duties. Growth of Internet
 and Broadband on inputs and domestically manufactured goods with those that are imported.
? Providing the appropriate tax structure to enable faster growth, without the Government
 having to forego significant revenue.

5. Creation of content and applications

? Outlining how the Government should proceed in being more aggressive in its efforts to
 create content and applications available online for interacting with citizens, and
 thereby serve as a leading example.