

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1153
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005
SLOW SPREAD OF BROADBAND
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked the Government to accept its recommendations on extending fiscal incentives to users and tax benefits to service providers in order to overcome the slow spread of broadband in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the target fixed by the Government for 2005 and the achievements made so far in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to increase broadband subscribers in the country?

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 recently sent a communication to the Government recommending that Government should conduct a review of various provisions of Broadband Policy and should have reconsiderations on TRAI's earlier recommendations pertaining to Local Loop unbundling and fiscal incentives for Broadband. However, the suggestions made by TRAI are under examination.
- (c) Broadband Policy 2004 envisages 3 million broadband subscribers by end of year 2005. As on 31.10.2005, the number of Broadband subscribers was 0.71 million approximately based on available information.
- (d) The Government has recently announced reduction in licence fee for NLD/ILD Service licensees from 1st January 2006. This is expected to reduce cost of Broadband services and is expected to result in increase in Broadband subscribers.