

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4267
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
INDIA SOUTH AFRICA TIES IN IT SECTOR
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether India and South Africa have signed any agreement in the field of IT and Communications;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether possibilities are being explored for the MTNL to set up their operations in South Africa;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some private players of India are already in operation in South Africa; and
- (f) if so, extent to which cooperation in IT and Communications is likely to be increased as a result of the agreement?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir. However, an MOU on cooperation in the field of Communications and Information Technologies was signed between the two Governments on September 15, 2004.
- (b) The Inter-Governmental MOU provides scope for cooperation between India and South Africa in the areas like Communications and IT policy, regulatory framework, e-governance, e-commerce and IT security, Research and Development in ICT, setting up of joint ventures for manufacturing of ICT products and also joint efforts in project consultancy, post and postal bank services, etc. There is significant potential for cooperation in all these areas.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) There are number of Indian companies, which are active in the field of IT in South Africa. These include Tata Consultancy, APTECH, RAMCO Systems and Satyam Computers. In the telecommunication field, Tata and VSNL together have obtained 26% stake in the second landline based network operator in South Africa.
- (f) As stated at (a) above we do not have any agreement with South Africa. However, the Inter-Governmental MOU on cooperation provides a broad framework to facilitate promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of IT and Communication.