

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2006
ACCESS DEFICIT CHARGE
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

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- (a) whether private mobile operators have blamed TRAI for total regulatory failure as well as holding the consumers to ransom in regard to excess collection of access deficit charge;
- (b) if so, the total amount collected on ADC by TRAI and given to BSNL during the current year;
- (c) the target fixed by TRAI for collection of ADC and actually collected by TRAI between February, 2005 and January, 2006;
- (d) whether excess collection of ADC should have been passed to consumers by reducing tariff by 15 to 20 percent;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the extent to which the Government has passed the benefit of ADC to rural users?

Answer

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

- (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has received a letter from Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) wherein, based on the media reports, it has stated that the amount collected through ADC has exceeded Rs. 8000 crores. The excess collection of ADC had caused an unnecessary and additional burden on the consumers. COAI has, therefore, requested TRAI that the excess ADC collected inter alia by BSNL must be adjusted both to safeguard consumer interest and also to ensure level playing field for the private operators.
- (b) ADC is not collected by TRAI and therefore the figures of amount collected by TRAI and given to BSNL during current year are not maintained.
- (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide its Regulation dated 6th January, 2005 has estimated Rs. 5669 crores for collection of total amount of ADC between February, 2005 to January, 2006, out of which the estimated amount of ADC funded to BSNL was Rs. 4954 crores. While the exact amount of ADC received is not maintained, ADC receipts by BSNL, as reported by BSNL, for the period from 1.2.2005 to 31.1.2006 are estimated as Rs. 3700/- crores.
- (d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.