

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:150
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
SHARING OF INFRASTRUCTURE BY PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to introduce sharing of infrastructure by private telecom operators in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any discussions have been held with the private telecom operators in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 150 FOR 2ND AUGUST, 2006 REGARDING SHARING OF INFRASTRUCTURE BY PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country, subsidy support is proposed to be provided for shareable components like land, tower, power connection, power back up, boundary wall etc. and for non-shareable components like outdoor Base Transceiver Station with antennas and a portion of the backhaul. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing wireless coverage and shall be shared amongst three telecom service providers. The sharing of the infrastructure so created will result in lower capital cost and operating expenditure for the telecom service providers. It will promote competition and help in providing better mobile services at competitive rates to the rural subscribers.

(c) Yes, Sir. Consultations have been held with the Access Service Providers, Infrastructure Providers, Association of Telecom Service Providers and Manufacturers.

(d) The suggestions are considered while giving final shape to the scheme for infrastructure sharing.

(e) The Government has made a decision to implement the scheme. The implementation of the scheme requires an amendment to the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, Bill for which has been introduced in the Parliament and stands referred to the Standing Committee.