

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:120
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
UNIFORM SECURITY GUIDELINES FOR TELECOM COMPANIES
Acharia Shri Basudeb;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) Whether the Government has ensured that national security will not be compromised while enhancing FDI in the telecom sector from 49% to 74% as reported in the Business Line dated October 27, 2006;
- (b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;
- (c) Whether the Department of Telecom (DoT) has suggested uniform security guidelines for telecom companies irrespective of foreign investment or foreign nationals heading the company;
- (d) If so, the detailed guidelines framed by DoT in this regard ;
- (e) Whether these guidelines have been approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs ;
- (f) If so, the details thereof; and
- (g) The time by which security guidelines are likely to be issued to telecom operators?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) 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 (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 120 FOR 29TH NOVEMBER, 2006 REGARDING UNIFORM SECURITY GUIDELINES FOR TELECOM COMPANIES.

(a) & (b)The Government has already notified the policy for enhancement of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling from 49% to 74% in telecom sector vide Press Note No. 5 (2005 Series) dated 03.11.2005, which also stipulates certain conditions for addressing the security concerns. A number of representations have been received from various stakeholders seeking relaxation of some of the conditions in the interest of sustained growth of the telecom sector and Information Technology sector, which is dependent on telecom infrastructure. These representations are under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (g) The representations received, as mentioned above, are being examined through inter-ministerial consultations, wherein concerned ministries/departments including the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) have expressed their views.

Revision in the policy for FDI in the telecom sector, if any, is likely to be announced on or before 2nd January, 2007.