

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3569
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007
CLEARANCE OF UASL
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the Government has reorganized the Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPCW) and monitoring organization to speed up the clearance and issue Universal Access Service Licenses (UASL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of applications pending at present in this regard;
- (d) the time by which these UASL are likely to be issued for the benefit of customers for their choice; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for early disposal of pending applications?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) The functions of RF spectrum management by Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing and Wireless Monitoring Organisation (WMO) have been augmented, automated and modernized through a Project with World Bank loan. Most of the applications for frequency assignments and related issue of licences, can now be submitted on-line. Five regional licensing offices have also been established. This has speeded up clearance of various cases for wireless licences.

Unified Access Service Licenses are issued by 'Access Service' Group. As on 05.09.2007, there are 129 applications for UASL (Unified Access Service Licence). UAS Licences are granted to the applicant companies under section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 on fulfillment of the laid down conditions in the guidelines for issue of UAS Licences, by the applicant companies. However, no time frame can be fixed in general for decision on grant of licences on these applications due to related issues which need detailed examination.

Further, on 13.04.2007, Government had sought recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the issue of limiting the number of access providers in each service area and review of certain terms and conditions in the access provider license. On 29.08.2007, TRAI has recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access services providers in any service area. As on date, no decision has been taken on TRAI's recommendations.