

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5411
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
ISSUE OF TELECOM LICENCES
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Government has cleared the decks for 120 telecom licences and issued a letter of intent despite certain allegation regarding adhoc and irregular spectrum allocation made from the different quarters;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facts of the Letter of Indent issued in this regard;
- (c) the time by which these licences are likely to be issued;
- (d) whether a number of licence applications are still pending with the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which all the applications are likely to be cleared?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) to (c) Subsequent to acceptance of recommendations dated 28.8.2007 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), inter-alia, that there should be no cap on the number of access provider in any service area, 120 new Unified Access Services (UAS) licences have been granted in February-March, 2008 to 16 companies in 22 service areas against the Letters of Intent (Lols) issued to them on 10.1.2008. Further, as per terms and conditions of the UAS licence, the allocation of spectrum is subject to availability and as per guidelines issued from time to time.

(d) & (e) 343 applications from 26 companies for grant of UAS licences in 22 service areas are pending with the Government. Processing of these pending applications shall be done in due course as per the prevailing UAS licensing guidelines after following due procedure and no time frame can be fixed at this stage.