

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1596
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
TELECOM EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS
Mithlesh Shri ;Nagpal Shri Devendra

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

- (a) whether Cellular Operators Association of India has made any recommendations regarding non provision of any grant or incentive to local telecom equipment manufacturers from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has suggested as under:

"The USO Fund should not provide subsidy support for indigenous telecom manufacturing sector as this Fund is contributed to by the service providers and if equipment manufactures have to be subsidized or incentivized, it should be a separate activity / initiative outside the USOF ambit".

(c) Government has not yet considered giving incentives from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to equipment manufacturers.