

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1689
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
WIMAX ON A FRANCHISEE MODEL
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has selected partners for rolling out Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access (WiMAX) based broadband services on franchisee model in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State of Andhra Pradesh has been selected for this partnership;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, BSNL has entered into agreement with M/s Soma for rolling out WiMAX based broadband service on a Franchisee model for urban areas of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat & Maharashtra Telecom Circle. For other 16 Licence Service Areas (LSAs) namely – Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West), West Bengal, North East, Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Kolkata & Chennai, an Expression of Interest (EOI) has been floated.

(c) & (d) Madam, BSNL has entered into agreement with M/s Soma for rolling out WiMAX based broadband service on a Franchisee model for urban areas of Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle on 27.12.2007. In Andhra Pradesh circle, 25 WiMAX Base Stations have been commissioned on 25.04.2009.

(e) Does not arise in view of above.