GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3577
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GROWTH OF TELECOM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any strategic plan to spur the telecom sector growth 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 SACHIN PILOT)

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Union Government has taken various steps in line with strategy to spur Telecom Sector Growth, like following:-

Setting up of an independent regulatory body in 1997 − the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), to assure investors that the sector would be regulated in a balanced and fair manner. Further changes in the regulatory system took place with the TRAI Act of 2000 that aimed at restoring functional clarity and improving regulatory quality. TRAI has come out with various regulations and directions, which included Telecom Mobile Number Portability regulation 2009, Telecom Tariff order 2009 as well as orders regarding Quality of Service etc.

The Universal Service Obligation fund has been introduced in 2003 as a mechanism for transparent cross subsidization of universal access in telecom sector. The fund was to be collected through a 5 percent levy on the adjusted gross revenue of all telecom operators.

Opening up of its telecom sector to foreign investors up to 100 percent holding in manufacturing of telecom equipment, internet services, and infrastructure providers (e-mail and voice mail), 74 percent in radio-paging services, internet (international gateways) and 49 percent in national long distance, basic telephone, cellular mobile, and other value added service.

Decision of not capping on the number of access providers in any service area. 122 new UAS licenses were granted in 2008 to 17 companies in 22 service areas for benefit of consumers by increased competition.

Permission of dual technology spectrum under the same UAS/CMTS licence.

Decision to introduce Mobile Number Portability (MNP), that will alow susbscribers to retain their existing numbers while switching over from one service provider to another.

With a view to regulate unsolicited calls from telemarketers, a regulation has been implemented whereby "National DO not call Registry" has been put in place.

Conclusion of Auction of 3G/BWA Spectrum in 22 circles for Telecom Service Providers. Rollouts expected by the end of 2010.

Target has been set to achieve 40% rural teledensity by 2012.

Target has further been set to achieve 20 million Broadband connections by end of 2010.

Broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats by 2012.