GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3645
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
LICENCES TO NEW TELEPHONE OPERATORS
Adhi Sankar Shri ;Alagiri Shri S. ;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made its recommendations regarding issue of licences to new private telephone operators in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by TRAI; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) to (c) Madam, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has made its Recommendations dated 11.5.2010 on "Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework" with inter- alia, includes its following recommendations regarding issue of new licences in the country;

(i) No more Unified Access Services (UAS) licence linked with spectrum should be awarded. However, it is subject to the court decisions in this regard. The applicants will however be free to apply for or opt for a Unified licence, which is being recommended for future licences.

(ii) In so far as future licensing is concerned, spectrum should be delinked from UAS licence. Accordingly, there is no need for any cap on the number of access service providers. This recommendation of no cap is only if the future licences are delinked from spectrum. Otherwise, the TRAI's specific recommendation is that no more licences should be given.

(iii) All future licences should be Unified licences and that spectrum be delinked from the licence. The Unified licence will cover UAS, NLD (National Long Distance), ILD (International Long Distance), Internet, IP-I (infrastructure Provider-I) and GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite) licencees;

Being a policy matter no timeframe can be prescribed for decision by the Government on the recommendations of TRAI.