

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4234
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2009
PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT
Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued some guidelines to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) regarding procurement of equipments by it;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact of such guidelines on quality of BSNL network;
- (c) the time taken by BSNL and private telecom operators in procurement and induction of equipment required for expansion alongwith its impact on network quality in case of delay;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to liberalise these guidelines and parameters to ensure competitiveness of BSNL with other private companies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Sir, Government issues no guidelines to BSNL regarding procurement of equipments except on matters concerning security. The security guideline mainly includes:

#Resources should not be procured from foreign companies, especially from certain countries in the critical and sensitive border areas that may have national security implications.

#Extensive security audit to be carried out to the effect that network and its elements are free from any trapdoors/black boxes/malwares and susceptible to remote hacking.

(c) Private telecom operators are not bound to follow transparent tendering procedures which help them to procure equipments in more expeditious manner.

In a competitive situation opportunity lost due to long gestation period of procurement has a bearing on business opportunity and also private operators have an edge over BSNL in rolling out new networks, new features in existing networks and expansion of networks faster.

(d) & (e) Department of Telecom does not interfere in day to day working/procurement process of BSNL.