

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2165
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
INVESTMENT IN TELECOM SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of foreign investors who have come forward to invest in the Telecom Sector during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to make some foreign telecom companies its strategic partners;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken the cognizance of long term impact of such strategic partnership;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the extent to which the telecom sector is likely to be improved by enhancing the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling?

Answer

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

(a) The total number of Foreign Investors who have come forward to invest in the Telecom Sector during the last three years including the current year are as under:

Year	Total number of Investors
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2006-07	53
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2007-08	44
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2008-09	61
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2009-10	09
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(upto April 2009)
Total 167

(b) No such proposal is in process at present.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(f) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) brings in Capital and Technology, which are essential for qualitative and quantitative growth of the Telecom industry. The present FDI ceiling for telecom sector is 74%.