

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4229

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

EXIT POLICY

Haldar Shri Sucharu Ranjan; Vinay Kumar Alias Vinnu Shri

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

- (a) whether DoT has decided to make a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with regard to exit policy for telecom operators;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether TRAI plans to hold any consultations required under section 11(4) of the TRAI Act, before finalising its recommendations on the exit policy;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government proposes to protect its revenues and prohibit windfall gains for private parties in case of an exit policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) to (e) Madam, on October 10, 2011, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has sought the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on exit policy for the licensees who want to exit from the provisioning of telecom services under a licence.

On January 06, 2012, TRAI issued a pre-consultation paper on "Exit-Policy for various telecom licences" whereby the comments/views from all the stakeholders were solicited on issues, implications, advantage and disadvantages, to the individual licensees, to the Government revenues and to the telecom sector as a whole. Subsequently, TRAI, on 26th March 2012, issued a 'Draft response paper on Exit policy for various telecom licences' for consultation and seeking comments of stakeholders. Based on the comments received and its own analysis, TRAI has submitted its Recommendation on "Exit Policy for various Telecom Licences" on 18th April 2012, *in-te-alia*, recommending that:-

(a) Presently there is no need for a separate Exit Policy for all types of licences and the entry fee paid by the licensees will continue to be non-refundable as per their license terms and conditions.

(b) Present conditions in various licences with regard to surrender of licences, whereby licensee can surrender its licence by giving a notice of at least 60 calendar days (30 calendar days in case of ISP license) in advance shall continue to be applicable"