

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1207
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
MOBILE PHONE COMPANIES
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) the number of mobile phone companies operating in the country, as on date;
- (b) the criteria laid down for launching a new company;
- (c) whether the said companies are providing more attractive plans to their subscribers which is affecting the services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL); and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

- (a) As on 30th June 2009, Government has awarded Unified Access Service (UAS)/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Licenses to 38 companies for operation of mobile phone services in the country.
- (b) Sections 11 to 54 under Part II of the Companies Act, 1956 read with the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms, 1956 lay down the criteria for launching a new company.
- (c) The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) provides flexibility to all telecom operators to fix tariff. The telecom operators can offer alternative tariff plans to subscribers depending upon their usage pattern, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are offering tariff plans comparable to private operators.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.