

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3853  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009  
JOINT VENTURE WITH TELECOM COMPANY  
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has deferred the proposal of a telecom company of Norway to hike stake in its Telecom Joint Venture;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether FIPB clearance is mandatory for enhancing stake; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a): Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has deferred the proposal for foreign investment by M/s. Telenor Asia Pte.Ltd., Singapore in M/s. Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Private Limited. The Government of Norway through the Ministry of Trade and Industry has a majority stake (53.97%) in the Telenor Group.
- (b): The proposal was deferred for want of comments from Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (c)& (d): Yes, Sir.As per Press Note 3 (2007 series), FIPB clearance is mandatory for increase in foreign equity beyond 49% in Telecommunication sector.