

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:243

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009

IRREGULARITIES BY TELECOM OPERATORS

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

(a) whether special auditors had observed that some private telecom operators had allegedly been indulging in fudging of accounts and under-reporting of revenue to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some operators had allegedly provided "Wireless Services" even though they did not have Universal Access Service Licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against such operators?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 243 FOR 7TH DECEMBER, 2009 REGARDING "IRREGULARITIES BY TELECOM OPERATORS".

(a) & (b) Out of the five Special Auditors appointed by the Government, only one has so far submitted his report. This auditor was assigned the task of audit in respect of Reliance Communications Ltd. (RCOM), Reliance Telecom Ltd.(RTL),Reliable Internet Services Ltd(RISL)- since merged with RTL- and Reliance Communications Infrastructure Ltd. (RCIL). The auditor has observed that the first three named companies, as holders of Unified Access Service Licences (UASL), under reported their revenues to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) during 2006-07 & 2007-08. The observations are under examination of the Department.

(c) & (d) Madam, wireless services may be provided by operators holding licences for Basic services, Cellular services, Internet service, VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal), PMRTS(Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service), GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite) within the scope of their respective license. However, a case has come to the notice of the Wireless Planning & Coordination (WPC) wing of the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology in which M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. complained regarding use of wireless broadband by M/s Tikona Private Limited, an ISP operator who has not been assigned any spectrum for broadband by WPC wing. This is being examined by the WPC Wing.

(e) In the case of (a) and (b) above, the Department shall raise additional demands including interest and penalty, as per licence terms, on the concerned licencees, after examination. In respect of the paragraphs (c) & (d) above, suitable action will be taken as per rules depending upon the findings.