

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
ISSUE OF MOBILE LICENCES .

8

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDEY

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

- (a) the details of applications pending for issue of mobile licences;
- (b) whether it is a fact that TRAI has restrained Government not to grant new 2G mobile licences till it submits its final recommendations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government is insisting that there should be a cap on the number of service providers whereas TRAI thought it otherwise; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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 RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 8 FOR 19TH NOVEMBER, 2009 REGARDING "ISSUE OF MOBILE LICENCES".

(a) 343 applications received from 26 companies from 26.09.2007 to 01.10.2007 for 22 service areas of the country for issue of Unified Access Services (UAS) licenses are pending.

(b) to (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in its recommendations dated 28.08.2007 on "Review of license terms & conditions and capping of number of access providers" recommended that no cap be placed on the number of access service providers in any service area. Government accepted this recommendation of TRAI and issued 122 new UAS licenses in year 2008 to all the eligible applicants who applied upto 25.09.2007. Hon'ble TDSAT (Telecom Dispute Settlement & Appellate Tribunal), in para 116 of its judgment dated 31.03.2009, in Petition No. 286 of 2007 in the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) & others Vs. Union of India & Others, has observed that DoT would be well advised to review the policy of no capping keeping in view the various relevant parameters and take an appropriate decision. Accordingly, on 22.07.2009, Government has sought recommendations of TRAI on the policy of no capping on the number of Access Service providers in each service area in terms of pending applications for grant of new UAS licenses received from 26.09.2007 to 01.10.2007. On 4th August 2009, TRAI has informed DoT that since TRAI is undertaking comprehensive exercise on these issues, the DoT may keep in abeyance the grant of any new access service license till finalization of these recommendations and decisions thereupon by Government.