

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4250
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26TH MARCH, 2025**

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

**4250. SHRI PUTTA MAHESH KUMAR:
SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS:
SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISSETTI:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of the Government action on the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations from November 2022 and February 17, 2025, regarding an internet exchange policy and the timeline for introducing a specific policy for Internet Exchange Points (IXPs);
- (b) the criteria used by the Government to differentiate between an Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and an Internet Service Provider (ISP) along with the rationale behind requiring IXPs to hold ISP licenses;
- (c) the Government's position on the policy gap in licensing requirements for IXPs given that the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) obtained an ISP license only in December 2024 despite operating since 2003 without one; and
- (d) the planned reforms, if any, to establish a distinct regulatory framework for IXPs, along with the expected timeline for implementation?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

(a) & (d) TRAI has given its recommendations on Internet Exchange Point (IXP) vide its recommendations on Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India dated 18.11.2022 and recommendations on the Terms and Conditions of Network Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 dated 17.02.25.

The aforesaid recommendations of TRAI are presently under consideration of the Department. Being a policy matter, it is not feasible to specify a time frame for a decision.

(b) & (c) An IXP (Internet Exchange Points) is a facility through which Internet Service Providers (ISPs) peer and exchange internet traffic with each other. IXP consists of network switches that route traffic among service providers connected to it, effectively offering Internet service to the end user indirectly through the serving ISPs.

NIXI has signed the ISP License in 2024 effective from 2003.
