

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1906  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

**DECLINE IN NUMBER OF TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SAFEGUARDING  
CONSUMER INTERESTS**

**1906. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the number of telecom service providers in the country has declined significantly to effectively just three major private operators at present;
- (b) if so, the reasons identified by the Government for the substantial reduction in the number of telecom companies over the years;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of concerns regarding reduced competition in the telecom sector and the possibility of monopolistic or duopolistic market tendencies;
- (d) whether the Government is taking or proposes to take any measures to promote healthy competition and encourage more players to enter the telecom sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the fact that fewer market players may be taking advantage of rising tariffs and if so, the steps being taken to safeguard consumer interests and ensure affordable and quality telecom services?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) In the mobile services market, most comparable economies generally have 3 to 4 service providers. In India, there are also three private sector Telecom Service Providers and one public sector Telecom Service Provider offering mobile services.
- (d) Government has taken measures to promote healthy competition and encourage more players to enter the telecom sector. These initiatives, *inter-alia*, include the following
- Rationalization of Definition of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
  - Rationalization of Interest rates and removal of Penalties for delayed payments of License Fee (LF).
  - Rationalization of Bank Guarantee requirements under the license agreement.
  - Removal of levy of Spectrum Usage Charges on the spectrum acquired in auctions held after September 2021.
  - Provision for payment of Spectrum in 20 equal annual instalments for auctions held after September 2021.
  - To encourage investment, 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under automatic route permitted in Telecom Sector with applicable safeguards.

(e) As per the existing regulatory framework, tariff including rates and related conditions for telecommunication services is under forbearance except for national roaming, rural fixed line services and leased circuits, Mobile Number Portability (MNP), and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD). It may also be noted that the Indian telecom tariffs are amongst the lowest in the world.

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