

Territorial Telecom Circle and four metro telephone systems of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta & Chennai. The Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune Telephone Systems will also be treated as category 'B' service area.

- (c) Category C Service Area : Any Secondary Switching Area (SSA) of Department of Telecommunications excluding Category A and B Service Areas as above.
4. Direct Connectivity between two separately licensed ISPs shall be permitted. International traffic shall flow through DOT's internet nodes or VSNL's Internet Gateways.
 5. The licensee may obtain transmission lines for data traffic on lease from DOT or other specially authorised provider like Railways, Power Grid Corporation of India or State Electricity Boards. They may also establish their own transmission lines provided such capacities are not available from other authorised agencies.
 6. The licensee shall provide the service within 18 months from signing of Licence Agreement.
 7. The licensed ISPs shall use IP (Internet Protocol) and meet the technical requirement of other ISPs to which they are connected.
 8. Voice over Internet is not permitted.
 9. Flow of obscene, objectionable and unauthorised content shall not be permitted over ISPs network.
 10. Licences shall be valid for an initial period of ten years extendible for a period of five years or more at a time.
 11. Licence fee is waived for an initial period of five years.
 12. A performance Bank Guarantee for Rs. 2.00 crores for Category A Service Area, Rs. 20.00 lakhs for Category B Service Area and Rs. 3.00 lakhs for Category C Service Area are required to be submitted with the proposal.
 13. ISPs may fix their own tariff which is left open to be decided by market forces. However, TRAI may review and fix tariff at any time during the validity of the licence.

Financial Crisis in Private Telecom Companies

1873. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the private companies engaged with DoT are in severe cash flow crisis because their projects relating to the growth in revenues and subscriber base had gone completely away;

(b) whether the Government had received any demands from the private operators;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to help this industry to tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Some of the Private Telecom. Companies, especially companies engaged in Paging and Cellular operations, have represented about the poor financial viability of their operations.

(b) to (d) The Private telecom operators have demanded moratorium on the payment of licence fee, extension of the licence period. Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) has been requested to carry out a techno-economic study of Cellular and Paging Service Industry. A final decision in the matter will be taken on receipt of BICP report and consideration of all aspects of the matter. Pending BICP's study, ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited) were also requested to undertake a quick study of the operational performance of the Cellular Service Industry. Since intricate issues are involved and inter-ministerial consultations will be needed, it is difficult to set a time limit.

[Translation]

Construction of National Highways by NHAI in Maharashtra

1874. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Highways in Maharashtra being constructed by the National Highway Authority of India alongwith their cost of construction; and

(b) the details of maintenance expenditure per kilometer incurred on the National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) :

(a) National Highway Authority of India have been asked