

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1466
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
INTERCIRCLE MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

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

- (a) whether the Government are actively considering to allow intercircle mergers and acquisitions in the telecommunications sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any efforts to prevent monopolies in the telecommunications sector; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) to (d): Sir, the Government have recently, in June, 2003, amended the Licence Agreements for various Telecom Services so as to permit transfer of licence with prior written approval of the Licensor at any point of time subject to certain conditions. However, in case of Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service and Basic Telephone Service, the said transfer is permitted if otherwise no compromise in competition occurs in the provision of telecom services. This is so as to prevent monopolies

All Telecom Services in the country have been opened up for unrestricted competition, except for services such as Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS), where the number of operators is restricted due to radio spectrum constraint.