

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5869
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
CONVERSION INTO UNIVERSAL ACCESS SERVICE LICENCES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has brought out some changes whereby Basic Operators Licences were converted into Universal Access Service Licences (USAL) on payment of fee;
- (b) if so, the names of access providers who have got their Universal Access Service Licences converted and their charges after conversion;
- (c) the number of fixed phones, both wireline and wireless, added in the country with the names of access providers after conversion to Universal Access Service Licences; and
- (d) the reasons for investing by the BSNL only in mobile phones and not promoting fixed phones like wireless phones?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Based upon the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Government announced Guidelines for Migration to Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licence on 11th Nov.2003. As per this policy, Basic Service Operators were allowed to migrate to Unified Access Service Licence regime on payment of specified fee. The details of migration fees paid by basic Service Operators are given in the Annexure.

(c) Since migration in November 2003, the details of wireline and wireless connections added by these operators are as follows:

ACCESS PROVIDER	WIRELINE ADDITION	WIRELESS		TOTAL	
		FIXED TERMINAL	WIRELESS	HANDHELD	
M/s Tata	33016	1730654	587886	2351556	
M/s Reliance	77841	990625	4117002	5185468	
M/s HFCL	54932	33948	27920	116800	
Infotel					
M/s Shyam	65240	10471	-3384	72327	
Telelink					
M/s Bharti (M.P)	26726	-2965	0	23761	

(d) BSNL is investing in the promotion of fixed wireless services in urban and rural areas as a substitute to the wireline services at cheaper rates vis-a-vis the mobile phones. BSNL has already provided around 5 lakh connections in urban areas and 11.3 lakh connections in rural areas on WLL

(Wireless in Local Loop) as on 31.03.2005.

Annexure

Details of migration fee paid by Basic Service Operators

Licensee	Additional Fee for Migration (Rs.in crores)	Penal Interest on Delayed Entry (Rs.in crores)	Charges (Rs in crores)	Total

1. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.	1096.01	525.24	1621.25
2. M/s Reliance Teeecom Ltd.	0	0	0
3. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	544.54	0	544.54
4. M/s Tala Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd.	0	0	0
5. M/s Shayam Telelink Ltd.	2.96	0	2.96
6. M/s Bharti Infotel Ltd.	0	0	0
7. M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	0	0	0
Total	1643.51	525.24	2168.75
