

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
ELIMINATION OF ACCESS DEFICIT CHARGE
Acharia Shri Basudeb

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has mooted a three-stage process to eliminate the Access Deficit Charge (ADC) regime by 2008-2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has advocated for continuation of ADC in order to support BSNL in its rural telephony effort;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has taken any decision in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has stated in Para 89 of Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) Regulation dated 29.10.2003 that ADC regime will last for three to five years.

(c) to (e) In order to provide affordable services, it is not possible to abolish ADC at present. ADC is available for BSNL largely. The private operators providing fixed services are also allowed to retain ADC for originating traffic from such services. Government is also extending support for telecommunication services in rural and remote areas through Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund set up with effect from 1st April 2002.