

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1481
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
GAIL` S PARTICIPATION IN TELECOM MARKET
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GAIL (India) Ltd. plans to tap telecom market by acquiring the new National Long Distance Operator (NLDO) license for entering the national long distance telephony segment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a): GAIL (India) Limited have reported that they intend to migrate from the already held Infrastructure Provider Category II license to the National Long Distance Operator (NLDO) license in view of the announcement by the Minister of Communication and IT regarding relaxation in the NLD license conditions.

(b): The license would open the total market of enterprise segment, particularly the gas customers and other corporates, and the Government sector, particularly the Government supported I.T. initiatives of e-learning, e-governance and Software Technology Park of India (STPI) connectivity as well as National Long Distance (NLD) traffic of access providers.