

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006
CARRIER ACCESS CODE
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

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

- (a) whether telephone subscribers have the option to choose their STD/ISD operator through Carrier Access Code (CAC);
- (b) if so, whether telecom operators have not extended this facility of CAC to subscribers despite directive from TRAI in 2002;
- (c) if so, the reasons furnished by the telecom operators for not providing CAC facility and response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that telecom operators extend the CAC facility to their subscribers;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) At present telephone subscribers do not have facility to choose their STD/ISD operator through Carrier Access Code (CAC).
- (b) to (f) The TRAI had issued direction regarding the implementation of Call by Call and Carrier-Pre selection. But keeping level playing field consideration in view, it was not correct for the TRAI to force Carrier Selection implementation by all others with the exception of BSNL.

The licence agreement provides that the network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of SERVICE will be provided by the service provider seeking interconnection. However, mutually negotiated sharing arrangements for cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks between the service providers shall be permitted.

Further, system modification in the Switches of Access Providers is required to enable them to implement Carrier Selection for National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) Services in their networks. The setup cost required for the upgradation of switches needs to be contributed by NLD operators and ILD operators. Since this upgradation cost was on higher side, NLD/ILD operators did not come forward towards the payment of their contribution of upgradation costs when some of the Access Providers demanded set up cost payments.