

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4133
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
EXPANSION AND INVESTMENT SCENARIO IN TELECOM SECTOR
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

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

- (a) the expansion and investment scenario in Telecom Sector in the country;
- (b) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has the final say on the tariff to be charged by each of the telephone private players;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the aggressive war over tariff among the telephone companies;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to regulate the telephone tariff to ensure healthy competition among the private operators; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The subscriber base of telecom services is increasing every month indicating expansion and investment friendly scenario in telecom sector in the country.
- (b) & (c) Notwithstanding anything contained in Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, as per TRAI Act 1997, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Authority may, from time to time, by order, notify in the Official Gazette the rates at which the telecommunication services within India and outside India shall be provided under this Act including the rates at which messages shall be transmitted to any country outside India; provided that the Authority may notify different rates for different persons or class of persons for similar telecommunications services and where different rates are fixed as foresaid the Authority shall record the reasons therefor.
- (d) to (g) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has permitted forbearance for tariffs except in rural areas for fixed services. The competition in telecommunication sector has led to reduction in tariffs from time to time and offering a bouquet of services to the subscribers. Healthy competition among various telecom service providers including public and private operators is essential.