

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2246
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006
INTERCONNECT USER CHARGES
Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether some private telephone operators have paid a substantial amount as levy to BSNL on dispute on fixed wireless telephone phone services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for charging this amount;
- (c) whether some operators have opposed the deposit of levy from retrospective date; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The private telephone operators namely M/s Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL), M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited (TTML) and M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL) were asked by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to pay Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) including Access Deficit Charges as per the terms and conditions of the Interconnect Agreement for wrong handover of traffic from Wireless in Local Loop (Limited Mobile) services network to BSNL on ports meant for traffic originated from fixed/wireline services network. BSNL has raised supplementary bills for approximately Rs.207.6 crores on M/s Tata Teleservice including TTML and Rs.183.6 crores on M/s RIL. These operators have disputed the claim of BSNL.

(c) M/s TTL, M/s TTML and M/s RIL had challenged the action of BSNL in Hon`ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) where their petitions were dismissed. Subsequently, they challenged the judgements of Hon`ble TDSAT in the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India. The case is still sub-judice in the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India.

As per interim order of Hon`ble Supreme Court of India, M/s Tata Teleservices Limited and M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Limited have paid Rs.10 crores each to BSNL. Further, as per interim order of Hon`ble Supreme Court of India dated 6th February 2006, M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited has paid Rs.40 crores to BSNL within a period of four weeks of the order.

(d) Raising of demand for IUC is governed by Interconnect Agreement between the operators and dispute is adjudicated as per provisions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act.