

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4016
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
MOBILE PHONE SERVICES IN RAJASTHAN
Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

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

- (a) the names of the companies which are providing mobile phone services in Rajasthan;
- (b) the company-wise number of subscribers so far;
- (c) the safeguards through which the Government protects the subscribers from the exploitation by various companies;
- (d) the areas of Rajasthan which have not yet been linked with mobile network;
- (e) the time by which entire Rajasthan is likely to be connected with the mobile service network; and
- (f) the details of revenue earned through mobile services in the State alongwith the proportion of earnings and expenditure in the State?

Answer

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

(a) The companies providing mobile phone services in Rajasthan are M/s Aircell Dingilink India Ltd, M/s Hexacom India Ltd, M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd, M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. & Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.

(b) The company wise detail of subscribers is given in Annexure-I.

(c) The Government is not aware of any exploitation of subscribers by mobile service providers. However, to safeguard the subscribers from sudden and frequent increase in tariffs by access providers, the TRAI has recently notified 31st Amendment of Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) mandating a minimum validity period of six months for tariff plans from the date of enrolment of the subscriber to that tariff plan. The service provider is free to reduce tariffs at any time; but increase in any item of tariff in that plan is not permitted during this six months period.

(d) Under the terms and conditions of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service licence agreement, in Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. Licensee shall also be permitted to cover any other town in District in lieu of District Headquarters. The coverage of District Headquarter/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. The DHQs/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% DHQs/towns shall lie with the licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

(e) In view of the (d) above, the time frame for the coverage of entire Rajasthan cannot be specified. However, the mobile service providers have covered all District Headquarters in the State of Rajasthan and have further plans to provide mobile coverage upto Tehsil Headquarters.

(f) The Government charges licence fee annually @ 6% of AGR from mobile service providers in Rajasthan state. Therefore, the information from service providers is only collected in terms of AGR. The definition of AGR is given in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Company wise Details of the mobile subscribers in Rajasthan

| Sr. No. | Name of the Company | Number of Subscribers |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | M/s Aircel Degilink India Limited | 2,25,233 |
| 2 | M/s Hexacom India Limited | 2,88,510 |
| 3 | M/s Shyam Telelink Limited | 26,957 |
| 4 | M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited | 2,40,266 |
| 5 | BSNL | 3,00,685 |

TOTAL 10,81,651

Annexure-II

Definition of `Adjusted Gross Revenue`:

1. The `Gross Revenue` shall be inclusive of installation charges, late fees, sale proceeds of handsets (or any other terminal equipment etc.), revenue on account of interest, dividend, value added services, supplementary services, access or interconnection charges, roaming charges, revenue from permissible sharing of infrastructure and any other miscellaneous revenue, without any set-off for related item of expense, etc.

2. For the purpose of arriving at the `Adjusted Gross Revenue` the following will be excluded from the Gross Revenue to arrive at the adjusted gross revenue:

(i) PSTN related Call charges (access charges) actually paid to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) / Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) or other telecom service providers within India.

(ii) Roaming revenues actually passed on to other telecom service providers, and

(iii) Service Tax on provision of service and Sales Tax actually paid to the Government; if gross revenue had included the component of Service Tax.