

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2764
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
SHARING OF SPARE OPTIC FIBRE CABLE
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

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

- (a) the availability of spare optic fibre cable laid by different operators which could be utilized for opening up long-distance voice and data communication business;
- (b) the initial reluctance, if any, of private operators to share its spare capacity with the new entrants;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to regulate rates for sharing of spare long distance optic fibre cable capacity by the operators to ensure healthy competition in the mobile service business; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) M/s Bharti Tele-Ventures Ltd. has intimated that approximately 50% of the optical fibre cable resources are available for infrastructure sharing whereas M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has reported that spare fibre pairs availability varies from route to route depending upon utilization, ring protection and future expansion plans. M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, M/s Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, M/s TATA Teleservices Ltd., M/s Dishnet Wireless Ltd., M/s Hutch Essar South Ltd., and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. have reported that there is no spare optical fibre cable as on date.
- (b) No reluctance of private operators to share their spare capacity has come to notice.
- (c) No such proposal is under consideration.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.