

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3017

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006

COMPLAINTS AGAINST PRIVATE TELECOM OPERATORS .

Bose Shri Subrata

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

(a) Whether the MTNL and BSNL filed complaints during the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 against certain private telecom operators for passing off incoming international calls from the USA or from other parts of the world as domestic traffic to evade access charges which would have been payable to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in terms of licence and interconnect agreement;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the complaints and compensation claimed by the MTNL and BSNL from the private telecom operators;

(c) Whether following investigations, DoT has confirmed the veracity of the complaints and endorsed the volume of compensation claimed by the MTNL/the BSNL;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) The action taken by the Government against the private telecom operators?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) MTNL and BSNL filed complaint against M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL). MTNL and BSNL raised bills amounting to Rs.341.27 crores and Rs.319.04 crores respectively on M/s RIL which have been paid by M/s RIL. The matter is subjudice.

(e) Department of Telecommunications has levied a penalty of Rs.50 crores each against the Unified Access Services Licences of M/s RIL for Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata service areas. M/s RIL appealed in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, however, the appeal was dismissed. M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs.150 crores in March, 2005. M/s RIL has again filed a Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgment of the TDSAT upholding the penalty of Rs.150 crores and the matter is subjudice.