

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3021
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
INTERCONNECT SERVICES BY BSNL .
Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar

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

- (a) Whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TARI) has made it mandatory to provide interconnect services within six months;
- (b) If so, the whether the BSNL is not providing interconnect services to private cellular operator within the mandatory stipulated time;
- (c) If so, whether the interconnect applications are pending with the BSNL;
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) The action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued direction to all the Service Providers on 07.06.2005 directing them to provide interconnection on the request of interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker, which is subjudice. Hon`ble Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) vide its interim order dated 19.07.2006 inter-alia directed BSNL to provide interconnection within 90 days of its receiving the necessary payment from the interconnection seeker and if for any reasons BSNL is not in a position to provide such interconnection within the stipulated period it shall intimate to TRAI and the concerned interconnection seeker the reasons for its failure to provide such interconnection.
- (b) to (d) Interconnect provisioning is a continuous process involving a number of stages. Once a demand is received, technical feasibility is studied, demand note is issued for feasible number of links, payment is collected, advise note is issued, Point of Interconnection (PoI) is created and interconnect link is wired, tested and acceptance tested. As the mobile services are growing at an exponential rate, at any given point of time there would be large number of Pols pending at various stages of provisioning.
- (e) The Government has asked BSNL and the private telecom operators to take various steps which inter-alia include holding of regular review meetings, streamlining of the procedure for provisioning of Pols in time bound manner, to provide forecast for demand of Pols in advance to enable BSNL to plan necessary equipment where feasible so as to reduce the technically non -feasible cases.