

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3763

ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007

REPRESENTATIONS FOR EXTENSION OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS

Nikhil Kumar Shri

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

(a) whether the Department of Telecom has rejected representations for extension of some private telecom operators for providing telephone connections to every rural household in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL) and Tata Teleservices Limited (Maharashtra) (TTL-MH) for provision of Individual Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1685 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country during the period 01.04.2005 and 31.03.2007. The request of the service providers for extension of time for installation of RDELs beyond 31.03.2007 was not accepted in view of the terms and conditions of RDELs agreements and the forthcoming scheme of shared infrastructure.