

Department of Telecommunication

Telecom Commission

7.6.4 Earlier, Department of Telecommunication was the sole telecom service provider in the country. Subsequently, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been hived off from this Department as a separate Public Sector Undertaking. Consequently, the Department has ceased to be a service provider and is presently functioning as a conventional department and its role is limited to Policy Planning, Licensing and Coordination matters relating to telegraphs, telephones, wireless, data, facsimile and telematic services and other like forms of communications. No need, therefore, exists for retaining a separate Telecom Commission in this Department. The Government should review the necessity of persisting with this Commission. It is further observed that earlier Indian Telecom Service (Group A), an organized technical service under Central Government, was performing the role of providing telecom services. These functions have since been corporatised. Continued necessity of retaining Indian Telecom Service (Group A) does not, therefore, exist. The Government should discontinue this service. All the existing officers of this service should either be absorbed in BSNL/MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) or else sent to the surplus pool.