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Telecom Services

World class telecommunications infrastructure is the key to rapid economic and social development of the country. It is in fact the backbone of every business activity. In today's world the dream of doing business across continents will remain a dream in the absence of telecom infrastructure. There have been far reaching developments in the convergence of telecom, IT, consumer electronics and media industries worldwide. Recognising the potential in enhancing quality of life and to facilitate India's vision of becoming IT super power by the year 2025, new Telecom Policy Framework 1999 and Broadband Policy 2004 were developed by the Government of India. Through this framework the government intends to provide both universal services to all uncovered areas and high-level services for meeting the needs of the country's economy.

The various types of telecom services are:

(i) Cellular mobile services: These are all types of mobile telecom services including voice and non-voice messages, data services and PCO services utilising any type of network equipment within their service area. They can also provide direct inter connectivity with any other type of telecom service provider.

(ii) Fixed line services: These are all types of fixed services including voice and non-voice messages and data services to establish linkages for long distance traffic. These utilise any type of network equipment primarily connected through fiber optic cables laid across the length and breadth of the country. The also provide inter connectivity with other types of telecom services.

(iii) Cable services: These are linkages and switched services within a licensed area of operation to operate media services, which are essentially one-way entertainment related services. The two-way communication including voice, data and information services through cable network would emerge significantly in the future. Offering services through the cable network would be similar to providing fixed services.

(iv) VSAT services: VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) is a satellite-based communications service. It offers businesses and government agencies a highly flexible and reliable communication solution in both urban and rural areas. Compared to land-based services, VSAT offers the assurance of reliable and uninterrupted service that is equal to or better than land-based services. It can be used to provide innovative applications such as tele-medicine,

newspapers-on-line, market rates and tele-education even in the most remote areas of our country.

(v) DTH services: DTH (Direct to Home) is again a satellite-based media services provided by cellular companies. One can receive media services directly through a satellite with the help of a small dish antenna and a set top box. The service provider of DTH services provides a bouquet of multiple channels. It can be viewed on our television without being dependent on the services provided by the cable network services provider.