

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2204
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
NEW ALTERNATIVE TARIFF
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

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

- (a) whether expressing concern over the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the new tariff package of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the Government have decided to evolve an alternative tariff plan;
- (b) if so, the details of the alternative tariff plan; and
- (c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be evolved?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SRI YASHOK PRADHAN)

- (a) No, Sir. As per section 11(2) of TRAI Act 1997, the power to fix telecom tariffs has been mandated to TRAI only and Government has no role in the matter. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is free to fix its tariffs for its customers within the limits prescribed by TRAI.
- (b) BSNL has implemented a tariff package w.e.f. 1.05.2003. The details are given in the Annexure.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Annexure

Details of BSNL tariffs for Basic Services effective from 01.05.2003

RENTAL: No increase in monthly rental for any class of subscribers.

Rural Rental (Monthly in Rupees) Urban Rental (Monthly in Rupees)

| Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines) | (In Rs.) | Capacity of local Exchange (No. of lines) | (In Rs.) |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| Upto 999 | 50 | Upto 29,999 | 120 |
| 1000 - 29,999 | 110 | 30,000 - 99,999 | 180 |
| 30,000 - 99,999 | 150 | 1 lakh and above | 250 |
| 1 lakh and above | 210 | | |

Unit call charges (In Rupee, per metered call)
Free Calls (Per month) Made effective from 01-05-2003

| No. of Calls | Rural | Urban |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Rural | 75 1 - 75 free | 1 - 50 free |
| Urban | 50 76 - 300@.80 | 51 - 300@ 1.00 |
| | Above 300 @ 1.20 | Above 300 @ 1.20 |

Local Calls (Pulse Rate): No change in local call pulse rate (180 seconds to continue) for fixed network.

(in seconds)

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Basic to basic | 180 | |
| Basic to WLL(M) | 90 | |
| Basic to Cell (Metro) | | 60 |
| (Circle) | 60 | |

ISD Rates

Calls made in the countries Charges per minute (in Rs.)

Peak Off-peak

| | | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| SAARC and other neighbouring countries | Rs. 21.18 | Rs.18.00 |
|--|-----------|----------|

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Africa, Europe, Gulf, Asia and Oceania | Rs. 24.00 | Rs. 21.18 |
|--|-----------|-----------|

| | | |
|--|-----------|----------|
| American continent and in Western Hemisphere | Rs. 24.00 | Rs.21.18 |
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