

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:452
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
TELEPHONE BILLING FACILITIES TO SENIOR CITIZENS
CHINTAMAN NAVSHA WANAGA

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

- (a) whether any representation has been received by the Government for providing some facilities in Telephone Billing to senior citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI , PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations, memoranda and proposals have been received mainly asking for increase in free calls and rebate in monthly rentals.

(c) According to the present policy as a welfare gesture, senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above are entitled to register with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for one telephone connection under Non OYT Special category, which is given priority over General category. Further, they are also exempted from payment of registration charges for registering their demand for new telephone connection.

In the present competitive scenario in the telecommunication field, it is not feasible for BSNL and MTNL to grant any more concessions to the senior citizen at present.