

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1360  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003  
WAVING OF CHARGES  
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

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

- (a) whether the BSNL propose to waive charges for shifting of local telephones;
- (b) if so, the time by which such a scheme is likely to come into force;
- (c) whether the BSNL propose to reduce the ISD charges to the level prevalent in South-East-Asia;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to make BSNL more popular?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Local and as well as All India Shifting charges are waived off.
- (b) This scheme has already been introduced by BSNL with effect from 24-11-2003.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Sir. BSNL has already reduced the tariff for ISD calls to Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to Rs. 12/min. (6 secs. Pulse). This is a promotional offer valid upto 15.01.2004.
- (e) Many steps have been taken to popularize BSNL viz:
  1. Customer friendly tariffs are issued within the ambit of TRAI's order
  2. Several promotional schemes for Basic, Cellular, WLL, Internet services etc. have been introduced to remain competitive.
  3. Electronic media, print media etc. are being used extensively to popularize BSNL.
  4. BSNL is the only cellular service provider who has rolled out the mobile services throughout the country excluding Delhi and Mumbai. The mobile services in Assam and North East are likely to be rolled out during the current financial year.