

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1156  
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005  
FREE TELEPHONE FACILITY TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND PENSIONERS  
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide free telephone facility to the Senior Citizens including pensioners who have attained the age of 65 years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Sir, there is no such proposal to provide free telephone facility to the Senior Citizens and Pensioners. However, Senior Citizens including Pensioners of the age of 65 years and above are allowed to register their demand under Non-OYT Special Category, which is a priority category, without payment of any registration amount.

Further, Senior Citizens can avail the Sulabh Plan of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for basic telephony where rental is substantially lower varying from Rs.99/- to Rs.160/- per month depending upon exchange capacity. For new telephone connection under Plan 250, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is providing 25% rebate in rental and installation charges to Senior Citizens.

The two Telecom Public Sector Units (PSUs) namely BSNL and MTNL are working in highly competitive environment and they make their own commercial policies depending upon the market conditions.