

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:60

ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006

UNIFORM STD RATES

Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Sugavanam Shri E.G.;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL`s) much awaited plan to launch a country-wide uniform STD calling rate that would have reduced STD rates by up to 70 per cent was called off recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce this plan;
- (d) if so, by when;
- (e) whether this plan is likely to be introduced by MTNL also;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir. The STD Rates have been reduced from existing Rs. 2.40 to Rs. 1.00 per minute uniformly countrywide under BSNL One India tariff plan. One India tariff plan has been offered for Basic as well as Cellular Services with effect from 01-03-2006.
- (b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.
- (e) & (f) On 10-02-2006, MTNL has announced an alternative tariff plan called `One India` plan effective from 01-03-2006 with a uniform calling rate of rupee one per minute for National Long Distance calls to any network.
- (g) Does not arise in view of (e) & (f) above.