

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4247
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
REDUCTION IN RATES OF BROADBAND SERVICES
Sarvey Shri Sathyanarayana

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

- (a) whether India has witnessed growth in computerisation of various sectors during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to reduce the rates of broadband services in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring uniformity in the rates for internet services among the public and private broadband service providers; and
- (f) if so, the time by which the rates for broadband services are likely to be reduced?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) and (b): As per the NASSCOM report for the year 2002-03, following are the key verticals/sectors which have witnessed growth of computerization in India:

- Banking & Finance
- Telecom
- Manufacturing
- Health care
- Utilities
- Retailing
- Travel, Transport & Logistics
- Government

(c),(d),(e) and (f): As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, as amended, tariffs for telecom services are under the purview of TRAI. Tariff for Broadband and Internet service is under forbearance and the service providers have been given flexibility in fixing charges for these services. However, Government has recently announced reduction in license fee for NLD / ILD Service licensees from 1st January, 2006. This is expected to reduce cost of Broadband services.