

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2779
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
RENTAL CHARGES OF BSNL AND MTNL
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe;Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

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

- (a) whether landline rental charges of the BSNL and the MTNL are on higher side;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the MTNL and the BSNL are taking any course of action to compete with private telephone and mobile service providers;
- (d) if so, whether the MTNL and the BSNL will not focus on value added services for their consumers which they may not sustain the present environment of Telecommunication sector; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) Landline rental charges of BSNL and MTNL are highly competitive vis-À-vis private operators. Rural tariffs of BSNL are even below the level/ceiling prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The tariffs are reviewed by the PSUs from time to time and a number of alternative packages are offered to meet specific needs of different customer segments.
- (d) & (e) BSNL and MTNL are continuously adding latest and proven technologies to provide new services like GPRS (General packet Radio Service) and MMS (Multi Media Messaging Service) etc. progressively in their mobile network. These PSUs have also started providing various voice based value added services like News, Astrology, contest, Dial a song etc. to their Fixed as well as Cellular mobile subscribers in phased manner. In addition, various value added services on SMS (Short Messaging Services) are also provided.