GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340 ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006 ONE INDIA SCHEME Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

(a) whether the Government is providing `One India Scheme` to domestic and individual connections throughout the country under Plan-95;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the same scheme is being extended to the Coins Collecting Box (C.C.B.) connections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any concessions or exemptions on deposit etc., are given to physically challenged and widows who are having the Coins Collecting Box (C.C.B.) connections; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are not providing `One India Scheme` under Plan-95. However, the two PSUs have introduced `One India Plan` w.e.f. 1.3.2006 as an alternate tariff plan in addition to other ongoing plans. Important features of One India Plan are as follows:

(i) Under this plan, landline and fixed WLL customers of BSNL and MTNL can call anywhere in the country on the same network at the rate of Re.1/- per minute for inter circle calls and Re.1/- for 3 minutes for local and intra circle calls upto 50 Kms. On other networks, such calls shall be charged uniformly at Re-1/- per minute.

(ii) Similarly alternate tariff for cellular subscribers for both post paid and prepaid customers have been offered under One India Scheme.

(iii) MTNL subscribers of landline and fixed WLL services can call from Delhi to BSNL's fixed line in NCR region at Re. 1/- for 3 minutes. Recently '95' level dialing has been introduced by MTNL for landline to landline phones between Delhi and Mumbai at tariff rate of Re.1.20/- for 3 minutes.

(c) to (e) One India Scheme is not extended to CCBs. In this scheme, a fixed charge in the form of rentals is taken. Since no rental charge is possible in PCOs, therefore, this scheme is not implemented in respect of CCB PCOs.

(f) & (g) Yes, Sir. Physically handicapped persons are exempted from providing Security Deposit for CCB connection. No such concession is available for widows.