

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3113
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
OFFERS BY MTNL
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

- (a) the details of the offers made by the MTNL to the subscribers on the occasion of Diwali festival and afterwards;
- (b) whether the impact of the offers has been negligible in view of the large scale requests for disconnection of landlines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the plans offered by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) to the subscribers;
- (e) whether a large number of landline subscribers who do not subscribe to One India Scheme are ignored in the matter of concessions offered by the MTNL;
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) MTNL had waived off initial one time broadband booking charges of Rs. 1300/-, Dolphin activation charges of Rs. 500/- and Garuda Mobile activation charges of Rs. 300/- from 16.10.2006 to 15.11.2006 on the occasion of festival season.

MTNL has recently launched the following schemes:

- (i) 1+1 scheme for landline subscribers wherein a six month old subscriber can get an additional telephone without monthly rent.
 - (ii) WLL mobile without any rental for handset security.
 - (iii) Internet Protocol Television (IPTV).
 - (iv) Monthly rental of One India Plan was reduced from Rs. 299/- to Rs. 180/- w.e.f. 01.11.2006.
 - (v) Customers of 2000 IX CDMA network were given unlimited use of Internet by paying Rs. 299/- w.e.f. 19.10.2006.
 - (vi) Unlimited Short messaging Service (SMS) on MTNL mobile network for a monthly rent of Rs. 30/- per month was launched on 20.10.2006.
- (b) & (c) The impact of such schemes has always been positive and encouraging. The capacity of GSM mobile is almost fully utilized. The demand for Garuda (CDMA) has also picked up.
- (d) The details are given in Annexure-I, II and III.
- (e) MTNL is not ignoring the category of customers who do not subscribe to the One India Scheme. Several attractive and affordable schemes/plans with monthly rental as low as Rs. 160/- and highest being Rs. 2350/- per month are available for such subscribers. The number of free calls available in each plan and the call charges per pulse varies from plan to plan (Annexure -I, II and III).
- (f) & (g) Do not arise in view of (e) above.