

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:371
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
WAITING LIST OF EXCEL MOBILE PHONE CONNECTIONS
Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) the number of applicants in the waiting list in Kerala Circle for Excel Mobile Phone connections;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to make SIM card indigenously;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the present rate of international trunk call from India to USA and other western countries and the Gulf countries;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to reduced the international trunk call rates to Gulf countries to make it at a par with the rates applicable to USA and other western countries;
- (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) The waiting list in Kerala Circle for Excel Mobile connection as on 30-06-2004 is 145744.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. M/s ITI Limited is the indigenous supplier of SIM Cards in the country.

(d) BSNL's existing ISD rates are as under: i) For USA, Canada, U.K. Rs. 7.20/minute ii) For Europe(other than UK), Singapore Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hongkong Rs. 9.60/minute iii) Rest of the World(including Gulf countries) Rs. 18.00/minute

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g) It is not possible to reduce the ISD Call rates to Gulf countries to make it at par with those of USA due to higher settlement rates (charges for termination of calls abroad).