

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2220
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
DIFFERENTIAL RENTAL CHARGES IN WEST BENGAL TELECOM CIRCLE
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Divisions in West Bengal circle have been regulating services to the customers where while some are charging rental of Rs.240/- in two months and the others on an average Rs.525/- in two months;
- (b) if so, the number of districts covered under the Calcutta Telephone Exchange where the consumers are to pay a rental charge of Rs.525/- in two months;
- (c) whether the consumers under the Calcutta Telephone Exchange are being discriminated against vis-à-vis West Bengal circle;
- (d) whether the Government propose to review their decision to remove the discrimination in payment of the rental charges; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

- (a) As per the prevailing tariff structure, rental depends upon the equipped capacity of the concerned Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA)/Telephone Exchange System and the classification of the areas falling therein as urban or rural. The West Bengal Telecom Circle accordingly charges from its subscribers in different SDCAs rental from Rs.100 to Rs. 360 per two months.
- (b)&(c): There is no discrimination against the consumers of Calcutta Telephone Exchange system vis-à-vis those of the West Bengal Telecom Circle. Both charge rentals from their customers as per the tariff structure prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for different equipped capacities in different (urban/rural) areas.
- (d) & (e): Do not arise in view of the (b) & (c) above.