

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
FREE TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to bring about policy changes in the telecom sector;
- (b) whether the Ministry has made telephone calls free for high officers;
- (c) if not, whether the Government have fixed a quota of free calls for them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) The policy changes in the Telecom Sector are being brought about in terms of NTP 1999. In addition, it has been decided to provide certain concessional facilities such as waiver of registration charges, installation charges and bi-monthly rental (at the present level), to the employees of the Department of Telecom Services and Telecommunications who wish to take private connections.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Yes Sir.
- (d) 1150 free calls per bi-monthly billing cycle are admissible on all departmental residential service telephone connections provided at the residence of officers/officials of the Telecommunication Department. For other connections to be taken by an employee of DTS/DOT mentioned in (a) above, the free call limit is the same as for other private users.