

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2272

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003

SLASHING OF LONG DISTANCE TARIFF/MOBILE INTERCONNECT RATES

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

:

(a) whether the BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.) has considerably slashed international long distance tariff/mobile interconnect rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the reduced tariffs compared with those charged by different mobile cellular operators?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a) BSNL has provided promotional ISD tariff upto 15.1.2004. The Interconnect rates are prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

(b) Due to competition in telecom sector, BSNL has allowed to all its Basic, Cellular and WLL (M) subscribers a promotional tariff for ISD calls. The details are given in the Annexure.

(c) The Cellular mobile operators provide various rates for calls based on customers' status (pre-paid or post-paid), alternate plan opted, etc. As such, BSNL's promotional tariff, though in line with competition is not comparable on point to point basis with those of different mobile Cellular operators.

**ANNEXURE**

BSNL's promotional ISD tariff for certain countries

Fixed/WLL-M/Cellular Telephones ISD Rates (charges Rs. per minute)

Particulars	Existing Tariff		Promotional Tariff	Validity	Reduction %
	Peak	Off Peak			
	from Peak time rate				
UK	24.00	21.18	7.20	22-10-2003	70%
to 15-01-2004					
USA, Canada and all countries in Europe except UK	24.00	21.18	9.60		60%
Singapore, Hongkong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	24.00	21.18	12.00	14-11-2003 to 15-01-2004	50%

# Existing ISD tariff continues to apply for other countries.

@ Peak & Off Peak times are Zone specific.