

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3945
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
USE OF WIRELESS FIXED PHONES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the use of wireless fixed phones in urban areas are cost effective and more convenient as compared to fixed line phones provided by the BSNL and the MTNL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to promote the use of wireless fixed phones in urban areas and remote villages?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) There is no difference in tariff for use of fixed wireless services and wireline services. Wireless fixed phones are generally cost effective, however in urban areas cost effectiveness has to be viewed against availability of spare capacity of land lines, spectrum constraints and magnitude of demand etc. The subscriber unit needs charging by external power source in case of fixed wireless services which is not needed in wireline services.

(c) The fixed wireless services are being used chiefly to cater to such remote/farflung places in suburban and rural areas where the nearest telephone exchange is more than 5 Km. and laying of wireline infrastructure is cost prohibitive. In order to provide telephone connectivity to uncovered villages, it has been planned to install most of the remaining Village Public Telephones on WLL technology.