

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6789
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
REDUCTION IN TARIFF
Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the tariff of rural telephones / PCOs particularly in hilly and inaccessible areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above
- (c) The Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) is the main service provider of telecom facilities in the rural areas and its present tariff for rural subscribers including hilly and inaccessible areas is highly subsidized. It is not only below the cost of provision but also below the ceiling prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

The tariff for local PCOs has been recently rationalized with effect from 01-04-2005. Hence further reduction is not possible at present.