

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
SIGNING OF TELECOM AGREEMENT WITH SRI LANKA
Meghwal Shri Kailash;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

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

- (a) whether the BSNL has signed a Cellular roaming agreement with Sri Lanka Telecom for promotion of Telecom Sector;
- (b) if so, the main features of the agreement;
- (c) the extent to which it is likely to be beneficial to both the countries; and
- (d) the time by which the agreement is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 129 FOR 14TH JULY, 2004 REGARDING SIGNING OF TELECOM AGREEMENT WITH SRI LANKA.

- (a) BSNL has signed an Agreement for Roaming of GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) Cellular Subscribers on 2nd June, 2004 with M/s. Mobitel, Sri Lanka which is the wireless communication arm of Sri Lanka Telecom.
- (b) & (c) The agreement would enable post-paid GSM subscribers of BSNL and M/s. Mobitel, Sri Lanka to roam in each other's Service Areas and avail GSM services. The Agreement is for indefinite time period. However, the same can be terminated, inter-alia, by any of the parties by written notice of six months.
- (d) Presently, testing is under-way and commercial roaming is likely to start in three months time.