

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:119

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005

REDUCTION IN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BANDWIDTH PRICES

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the government for reduction of domestic and international bandwidth prices;
- (b) whether the Government has urged the TATA controlled the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) to take the lead in reducing tariffs for international bandwidth;
- (c) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) the time by which a policy in this regard is likely to be announced;
- (e) whether the Government has urged the VSNL to lower international tariff also; and
- (f) if so, the time by which the final announcement in this regard is likely to be made?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, TRAI notify the rates at which the telecommunication services within and outside India shall be provided under this Act including the rates at which messages shall be transmitted to any country outside India. TRAI notified the rates for domestic leased circuits on 21st April, 2005 and for International Private Leased Circuits (International Bandwidth) on 8th September, 2005. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) filed an appeal in the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) against the order of 8th September, 2005 and the matter is sub-judice. The Government expects that all the service providers including Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) will lower the international tariff at par with that of other countries.