

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1384  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008  
REDUCTION IN TELEPHONE TARIFF  
Nizamuddin Shri G.;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to reduce the telephone tariff for the subscribers of Land Line and Cellular Phones provided by BSNL/MTNL to meet the growing competition from other telecom operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of cellular phone connections have been added by the BSNL/MTNL during the months starting from April, 2007 to February, 2008, month-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Government no longer fixes the tariff for telecom services in the country. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been mandated to regulate the tariff for telecom services vide TRAI Act of 1997 and under the current provisions of TRAI, most of such rates are under forbearance. Both BSNL & MTNL have been reviewing the tariffs for Land line and Cellular services from time to time on the basis of needs of customers, prevailing competition and TRAI guidelines.

(d) The month-wise details of number of cellular phone connections added by the BSNL/MTNL during the months starting from April, 2007 to February, 2008 are given in the Annexure.