

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:227
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR LANDLINE CONNECTIONS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide special package for Landline connections in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this special scheme is likely to benefit the Government as well as the subscribers; and
- (d) if so, details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) No new scheme is being contemplated to provide special package for Landline connections in the rural areas of the country. However, the present rural tariff of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) under various plans is highly subsidized. It is not only below cost but also below the level/ceiling prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(c) & (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.