

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2294
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
INTERNET TELEPHONY SERVICES
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.

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

- (a) Whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has lifted curbs on Internet Telephony services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this move to TRAI will lead to cheaper STD rates in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on "Issues related to Internet Telephony" on 18th August, 2008 to the Government, inter-alia, recommending that Internet Telephony may be permitted to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) with permission to provide Internet Telephony calls to Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)/Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) and vice-versa within country. As on date, no decision has been taken by the Government on these recommendations.

(c) & (d) STD tariff are under forbearance. However, TRAI in its above recommendations has viewed that there would be cost saving by transmitting the call-over Internet Protocol (IP) based network (i.e. Internet Telephony) that may be passed on to the user in the form of lower tariff by service providers.