

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3034
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2010
FREE SIM CARDS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been offering free SIM for Landline customers especially for the rural areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response received from each State especially from Andhra Pradesh?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam, the details are as follows:

BSNL : BSNL has been offering various free SIM schemes to its customers from time to time considering the need of customers and prevailing market conditions in both Rural and Urban areas. BSNL has also recently launched a very attractive mobile plan "PYARI JODI" applicable from 05.11.2010 under which free SIM has been offered to landline customers in both Rural and Urban areas. Details of BSNL's scheme is placed at Annexure-I. In Andhra Pradesh the said scheme was launched as "Bandham". The circle wise response received, including for Andhra Pradesh, is as per Annexure-II.

MTNL: MTNL is also currently offering free SIM for the existing Delhi Landline and Broadband customers. Details of MTNL's scheme are as follows:

(i) Free 3G SIM available in both Prepaid and Postpaid:

For post paid: Activation Charges Waived off.

For Prepaid: Free SIM and First Recharge Coupon (FRC) of Rs 49/-.

(ii) Additional Benefits:

Mobile TV (free for one month), 5 Games for one month, Free 200 MB Data (to be consumed within 30 days), M-video from mobile to win, Video on demand for 15 days.

The total numbers of connections issued under this scheme of MTNL up to 23.11.2010 are 1,001.