

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1626
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2009
INTERNET TELEPHONY SERVICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Internet Telephony is the cheapest mode of telecommunication in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to give permission for use of Internet Telephony by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, and
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in its recommendations on "Issues related to Internet Telephony" dated 18th August, 2008 has, inter-alia, recommended that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) may be permitted Internet Telephony with permission to provide Internet Telephony calls to Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)/Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) and vice-versa within the country.

The Internet Telephony service is not a predominant mode of communication in rural areas at present and no comparative tariff data is available for Internet Telephony and other forms of voice telephony. 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).

As on date, no decision has been taken by the Government on these recommendations. However, being a policy matter, no time frame can be specified.