

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1434
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015
Concession to Senior Citizen
Sanjar Shri Alok

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

- (a) the details of various concessions being provided to the senior citizens by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) including in rentals and bills of landline telephone connections;
- (b) whether certain concessions being provided to the senior citizens by the MTNL are not being provided in the service areas under BSNL;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor behind such discrimination despite both the telecom companies being Public Sector Undertakings; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has reported that senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above are exempted from payment of registration charges of Rs.500/- of registration of landline telephone connection.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has reported that concession of 25% in installation charges and monthly fixed charges for landline connections is given to senior citizens under Plan-250.

(b)to(d) BSNL and MTNL are different Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) having different managements and Board of Directors. Both PSUs have their autonomy in taking commercial decisions. While Government would prefer the PSUs to provide greater concessions to senior citizens, it respects the autonomy of the PSUs in taking commercial decisions.