

1	2	3
7.	Karnataka	4
8.	Tamil Nadu	4
9.	Kerala	4
10.	Punjab	4
11.	Haryana	4
12.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	4
13.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	3
14.	Rajasthan	0
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4
16.	West Bengal	1
17.	Himachal Pradesh	3
18.	Bihar	4
19.	Orissa	4
20.	Assam	4
21.	North East	0
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	4

Local call facility upto 250 kms.

1885. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the local call facility upto 250 kms. has been provided in almost all the cities across the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not providing local call facility between Delhi and Dehradun; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government for making provisions of local call facility between Delhi and Dehradun for the benefit of the people of both the cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Sir, MTNL has extended local facility with 95 access as per the following criteria:—

- Access to adjacent Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) area.
- Access between Delhi and NCR towns.
- From One SDCA to another SDCA within the License service area of the provider.

- From one SDCA to other SDCA, outside the licensed service area of the service provider provided the tariff is same as that of intra SDCA tariff.

MTNL is providing the telecom service in Delhi and Mumbai only whereas BSNL is a Pan-India operator except Delhi and Mumbai. As per Telecom Tariff Order 1999 (TTO 99) and subsequent amendments, the local call charges are applicable on Intra SDCA traffic and for calls within distance category of 0-50 kms. Further, since both the organizations are different entities, it is not possible to provide local call facility between Delhi and Dehradun. Further, BSNL is offering services in both urban as well as rural areas and offers uniform tariff to all subscribers in accordance with Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) regulation prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. Under landline service, BSNL is offering STD call in the range of Rs. 0.80 to Rs. 1.20 per minute throughout the country, which is very competitive and affordable. BSNL is also reviewing the tariff from time to time based on the market conditions and customers profile.

Mobile telephone services in rural areas

1886. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile telephone services have not been launched in many areas of the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, locationwise;

(c) the reasons due to which Government has not provided this facility in such areas; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to provide this facility in rural areas during current year as compared to previous year, indicating the success rate achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, as on 31.10.2008 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has covered all District Headquarters and 15989 cities/towns with GSM based mobile services. Out of 593601 villages BSNL has already covered 274960 villages with mobile services. Circle-wise/State-wise number of total villages and number of villages covered with mobile services as on 31.10.2008 is given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) The provision of mobile network being capital intensive can be done only in phases and as such BSNL is providing services in phased manner based on techno commercial viability of different areas. In addition, some areas, falling near International Border, are not covered with mobile services due to restriction imposed by license conditions as per Government policy.

(d) The efforts made by the Government to provide Mobile Telephone services in rural areas during the current year as compared to previous year are given below:—

- (i) To increase the wireless communication in rural areas, scheme for setting up of 7871 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts in 27 States for provision of mobile