

(b) the number of anthrax letters and the number of suspected anthrax letters received so far before and after the Afghan war; and

(c) the measures taken up to identify suspected letters before their distribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Nil.

(b) (i) Number of Anthrax letters received — Nil

(ii) Number of suspicious Anthrax letters received — 76

(c) Guidelines have been issued to all the Postal Circles regarding handling of suspected articles containing anthrax. Copies of Universal Postal Union and United States Postal Inspection Service Manuals which provide tips to identify suspected articles and preventive measures have been circulated to all concerned.

Short Distance Mobile Telephone Services

453. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) has decided to accept the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendations allowing basic telecom operators to offer short-distance mobile telephone services based on Wireless in Local Loop (WILL) technology; and

(b) if so, to what extent the current cellular telephone rates would be cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) TRAI's recommendation has been accepted for allowing the usage of hand-held telephone sets to subscribers of Basic Telephone Service within the local areas typically Tehsils on Wireless Access Systems.

(b) Domain of above permission for Basic Telephone Service, is clearly different from that of the GSM based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. No airtime charges are levied as tariff on subscribers utilizing the facility in (a) above.

Caller Identification Facilities

454. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: