

AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The roaming charges levied by different operators have to be within the ceiling tariff prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI after consultation with all the stakeholders and in-depth analysis has prescribed the following revised roaming tariff which has come into effect from 15.02.2007.

- Rs. 1.40 per minute for outgoing local calls;
- Rs. 2.40 per minute for outgoing NLD calls;
- Rs. 1.75 per minute for incoming calls.

The other salient features prescribed while regional/national roaming are:

- No rental permitted in any form;
- No surcharge is leviable for any of the roaming services;
- No separate PSTN charges on roaming calls;
- Receiving SMS is free.

The revised tariffs are lower to the extent of 22% to 56% compared with the then prevailing market rates. This is in addition to the saving for the customers on account of abolition of rentals.

Increasing opportunities in IT, Bangalore

281. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the job market, the IT, Bangalore combo continues to be unbeatable;

(b) if so, whether for the January-March, 2007 quarter, Bangalore is expected to be the top hiring city and IT the top recruiting sector;

(c) whether the employment outlook continues to be positive (at the same level as the previous quarter) and reflects the increasing opportunities for job seekers and the need for talent;

(d) if so, the total employment so far provided in this sector; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve its position further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) estimates, the number of Professional Employed in India in IT and ITES sector is estimated to reach 1.63 millions by March, 2007, as compared to 1.29 million in March, 2006.

Board for IT Education Standards, Government of Karnataka and some of the leading IT Companies are engaged in integrating the IT skills with the academic curriculum to make students IT ready for employment.

Government of India along with Industry association like NASSCOM has been continuously looking at the IT sector's requirement from time to time. Government of India had set up a Task Force on 'Human Resource Development in Information Technology' with the main objective to prepare a long-term strategy for significantly increasing the number of well trained IT professionals in line with economic projections. The Task Force had noted that the issue of manpower gap is not as much about the institutional seat availability as about the nature of skills and training provided in these institutions. As a follow-up, DIT (Department of Information Technology) has taken measures to generate manpower in key verticals like bioinformatics, VLSI Design and Information Security.

NASSCOM has also been working with the academia across the country under its IT workforce development initiative to encourage and facilitate greater industry interaction; NASSCOM has signed MoUs (Memorandum of Understandings) with UGC (University Grants Commission) and AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) to take forward these initiatives.

Quality of service for CMSPs

282. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of benchmarks set for providing quality service and for other parameters for the Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs);