

Proposal to release postage stamp

3475. SHRI RABINARAYAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state whether the Ministry would consider the proposal submitted by the Chief Minister of Odisha to release postage stamp in honour of Sh. Binode Kanungo an encyclopaedist, Gandhian and freedom fighter on the occasion of his birth Centenary celebration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHRIMATI KURUPARANI KILLI): No, Sir.

The proposal for issue of a Commemorative Postage Stamp on 'Binode Kanungo' was placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) for consideration in its meeting held on 17.11.2011 but the same could not be approved.

Call rates of PSU telecom companies

3476. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates provided by the PSU telecom companies are competitive as compared to the private telecom companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the PSU companies to bring the call rates at par with private telecom companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication access services is under forbearance except for national roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services. The service providers have the flexibility to offer different tariff schemes depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. Each service provider devices various schemes in such a manner as to suit its commercial interest in accordance with the tariff regulatory guidelines issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. All service providers, including Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) telecom companies Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)