

1	2	3
10.	Kerala	1017
11.	Kolkata Telecom District	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	201
13.	Maharashtra and Goa	187
14.	Mumbai (MTNL)	149
15.	North East	135
16.	Odisha	74
17.	Punjab	454
18.	Rajasthan	313
19.	Tamil Nadu including Chennai Telecom District	755
20.	Uttar Pradesh East	392
21.	Uttar Pradesh West	208
22.	West Bengal and Andaman and Nicobar	50

**Long distance calls at local call rates**

3283. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce the scheme of long distance calls at the rate of local calls;
- (b) if so, when was the decision taken;
- (c) whether the scheme has come into force;
- (d) the advantages and disadvantages, if any, of the scheme;
- (e) whether private service providers are expected to fall in line; and
- (f) what are their reaction as of now and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As per the provision of

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 as amended from time to time, TRAI prescribes tariffs for telecommunication services in India. As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for access service (including STD tariff) is under forbearance except rural wire line services and national roaming services. The telecom service providers have flexibility to offer different tariff packages targeted at different customer user groups, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation etc.

(b) to (f) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Digitalisation of rural post offices**

3284. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is taking steps for digitalisation of rural post offices in the country;
- (b) the physical progress in digitalisation of rural post offices in Odisha;
- (c) whether any target was earmarked, both physical and financial, for 2011-12, concerned with digitalisation of rural post offices;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved the Department of Posts' IT Modernization Project with a total outlay of ₹4909 crore in November, 2012. The IT Modernization Project aims at modernization and computerization of all post offices in the country including more than 130000 Gramin Dak Sewak Post Offices in rural areas. The project covers whole of India including Odisha.

(c) to (e) No specific target for the year 2011-12 was earmarked for the digitalization of rural post offices. The IT Modernization Project is being implemented through eight different segments and out of the eight, two segments *i.e.* Rural ICT- Application and Rural Hardware and Connectivity deal with digitalization of rural post offices.

In respect of Rural ICT- Application, the contract has been signed on 28.02.13 but the implementation is kept on hold to align with the finalization of Rural Hardware