

After analyzing the comments received from the stakeholders, a view was taken by TRAI that fully free national roaming across all the tariff schemes may result in cross subsidization of roaming subscribers at the expense of non-roaming subscribers, and also it may create arbitrage opportunity.

Through the Telecommunication Tariff Order (60th Amendment), 2015 dated 09.04.2015, TRAI has made the following changes in the tariff regime for national roaming, which came into effect from 01.05.2015:-

- Reduced the ceilings tariff for voice calls and SMS while on national roaming.
- Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have been mandated to offer a Special Roaming Tariff Plan to its pre-paid and post-paid subscribers. In Special Roaming Tariff Plan, incoming voice calls while on national roaming shall be free, on payment of fixed charge, if any. All the wireless access service providers have at least one tariff plan in which the incoming calls, while roaming, are free.

#### **Greenfield EMC proposal from Government of Odisha**

1498. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the Greenfield Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) proposal of Government of Odisha being pending with Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity) for which the State is unable to proceed further in attracting investment under Electronic System Design and Manufacturing; and

(b) by when the above stated proposal will be approved by Central Government to start the project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity), Government of India had received a final application for setting up of Greenfield Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha submitted by M/s. Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.(IDCO). During the appraisal, the application was found deficient in compliance with the requirements laid down in Electronics Manufacturing Cluster Scheme and Guidelines thereof. Details relating to financial capability of the proposed units and Consent to Establish (CTE) from the concerned State Government authorities was found lacking. In this regard, IDCO has been informed *vide* this Department letters no. 36(8)/

2015-IPHW dated 6th May, 2015 and 30th June, 2015 and subsequent e-mails dated 10th September, 2015, 15th September, 2015, 21st September, 2015, 4th October, 2015, 23rd October, 2015, 8th December, 2015, 13th January, 2016, 3rd February, 2016, 16th February, 2016, 4th March 2016, 29th March 2016 and 18th April 2016 for providing the requisite documents. In spite of multiple reminders, the requisite documents have not been submitted by applicant.

**Concessions by BSNL and MTNL to senior citizens**

†1499. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concession is granted to the senior citizens by Government companies, MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details of concession being given;

(c) whether concessions being granted by MTNL and BSNL are different, if so, the reasons behind the different concessions of these two companies;

(d) whether Government is planning to formulate any policy in this regard, so that there should be uniformity in concessions being granted by these companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has reported that senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above are exempted from payment of registration charges of ₹ 500/- for landline telephone connection under Non-OYT-Special category.

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has reported that concession of 25% in installation charges and monthly fixed charges for landline connections under Plan-250 is given to senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above.

(c) to (e) BSNL and MTNL are different Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) having different managements and Board of Directors. Both PSUs take their decisions based on their commercial considerations. While Government would prefer the PSUs to provide greater concessions to senior citizens, it adheres to providing autonomy of the PSUs in taking commercial decisions.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.