

Internet telephony

2636. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce internet telephony system in the country and if so, the details and the benefits thereof;

(b) whether the said facility would be available in flights and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telecom operators would charge more than the usual for such services and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a consumer has to change SIM card/mobile number to activate the said services and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely benefit the customers would get from this new service and the cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Internet Telephony is already permitted in the country. Access Service licensees can provide Internet Telephony.

(b) As per “Flight and Maritime Connectivity Rules, 2018” published in the Gazette of India on 14th December, 2018, both Voice and Internet facilities can be provided in flights.

(c) to (e) Customers are not required to change SIM Card for existing services while in aircraft. Major benefit will be that telecom services shall be available while travelling in flights. Tariff will be governed by the market forces and will depend on the service providers’ assessment of expenditure made in providing the services and the expected revenue.

e-commerce site of India Post

2637. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Post launched its own e-commerce website to help sellers, particularly rural artisans and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to sell their products across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the small and local sellers, who have been