

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

left behind in e-commerce space, would now be able to maximize their reach and retailing power by leveraging the vast physical and IT network of the Department of Posts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. India Post has launched its own e-Commerce Portal on 14.12.2018 to provide end to end support to sellers including Rural Artisans, Self Help Groups, Women Entrepreneurs and Online Retailers to sell their product across the country. Department of Post's own products like Gangajal will also be available on the e-Commerce Portal. The e-Commerce Portal can be accessed at <https://ecom.indiapost.gov.in>

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Small and Local sellers, who have been left behind in e-Commerce space would now be able to maximize their reach and retailing power by leveraging the vast physical and IT network of the Department of Posts. After getting registered on the Portal through Circle Office Small/Local Sellers can induct their ordered items in the Local Head Post Office to which they are attached. In order to attract these sellers, exemption in security deposit for six months has been granted. In addition to this, waiver of market place commission (7%) has also been extended.

Call drop rate

2638. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has carried out tests to ascertain the call drop rate;

(b) whether there are plans to carry out tests on a pan-India basis and the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the rate of call drops;

(d) whether Government has allowed the installation of telecom towers at Government buildings to reduce call drops; and

(e) the number of such towers installed at Government buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In order to assess the network quality of mobile services of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been regularly conducting Independent Drive Tests (IDTs) in cities, Highways and rail routes.