

**Spur in STD traffic**

1205. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent cut in telecom tariffs has spurred the STD traffic;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bharti's rate cut has also been made effective from 26th January, this year; and

(c) If so, the percent of increase in metered call units because of both the cuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Although the traffic is BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has increased by about 25 per cent after the reduction in STD rated, there has been a decrease by about 20 per cent in the long distance metered call units as per a sample study conducted in the month of February, 2002.

**New Internet connections in Assam**

1206. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VSNL has stopped giving new connections for internet in Assam;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by what time;

(c) whether Government are aware that apart from Guwahati, in other towns of Assam, VSNL is the only service provider, if so, how VSNL is trying to improve the situation;

(d) what are the towns in Assam presently having internet access; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(e) what are other towns in Assam that would be included in the near future and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) Except at Guwahati, VSNL does not have any other point of presence (POP) in Assam for providing internet connection in Assam. Besides Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, (A Public Sector Undertaking) and other 'A' Category Licencees the following ISPs have license to operate in Assam:

(i) M/s Vednath DoT Com Worldwide Ltd.

(ii) M/s North East Online Service Pvt. Ltd.

(iii) M/s Trans Virtual Ltd.

(e) All District Headquarters have been provided with Internet Services by BSNL. Details of internet service providers, who have set up their internet nodes in Assam are given in the Statement.

#### Statement

*Details of Internet Service Providers who have set up their internet nodes in Assam:*

Name of ISP	Location of Node
BSNL	Berpatha
BSNL	Bhubri
BSNL	Bongaigaon
BSNL	Dibrugarh
BSNL	Golaghat
VSNL	Guwahati
Patriot Automation Project Pvt. Ltd.	Guwahati
Satyam Infoway Ltd.	Guwahati
BSNL	Guwahati
Reliance Infocom Ltd.	Guwahati

Name of ISP	Location of Node
Wipro Net Ltd.	Guwahati
HCL Ininet Ltd.	Guwahati
North East Online Service Pvt. Ltd.	Guwahati
BSNL	Jorhat
BSNL	Karimganj
BSNL	Mongaon
BSNL	Shivsagar
BSNL	Silchar
BSNL	Tinshukia

**Revenue earned from international long distance telephony**

1207. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by VSNL from international long distance telephony during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) the revenue earned by BSNL and erstwhile DoT during the corresponding years from carrying ILD traffic as NLD carriers and circle operators, year-wise;

(c) whether BSNL would now have to depend on VSNL for international long distance incoming traffic;

(d) whether VSNL itself has NLD licence and this puts BSNL at a disadvantage in getting incoming ILD traffic;

(e) if so, whether Government's action for not allowing BSNL to bid for VSNL is discriminatory; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?