

F.No.7(40)/2007-C&V
Govt. of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Expenditure

New Delhi, Dated June 26th, 2007

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: (i) Provision of STD facility on the telephones provided to Officers of the level of Deputy Secretary/Director in Office
(ii) Option to choose an appropriate Plan of MTNL/BSNL for Office telephones

In this Ministry's O.M. No.F.7(20)-E.Coord/79 dated 27.10.1979 Ministries/departments of the central Government were advised to bar STD facility on the Office telephones of all officers below the rank of Joint Secretary. This position since then has remained unchanged though in some cases STD facility has been permitted on functional grounds to non-entitled officers also. The main reason behind not permitting officers below Joint Secretary level, to avail this facility, during the past decades was that the long distance calling charges or the STD charges were quite steep and in order to keep expenditure under control, the access to the facility had to be restricted. The position has changed drastically over the years and the STD charges have continuously fallen. MTNL/BSNL have also floated a number of Plans including 'One India' Plan where the STD rates are much lower to their other plans.

2. References have been received from various Ministries/departments requesting for provision of STD facility on the office telephones of Officers of the level of Deputy Secretary/Director. 'One India' Plan is proposed to be adopted for the purpose. In view of the fact that the STD charges under the "One India" Plan of MTNL/BSNL are in the range of Re. 1/- per minute only, it has been decided to permit officers of the level of Deputy Secretary/Director to avail the STD facility on their office telephones.

3. 'One India' Plan of MTNL/BSNL at present appears to be the best option available. However, the Financial Advisers may consider subscribing/shifting to another plan as and when a cheaper and more advantageous option/plan other than the 'One India' plan becomes available.

4. The Office telephones at present generally subscribe to the 'Plan 250' of MTNL/BSNL under which a fixed rental of Rs.250/- is charged every month and sixty (60) free calls are available (calls without payment). Till recently MTNL/BSNL had but only a few plans to offer to a subscriber and 'plan 250' was found to be the most appropriate for subscription both for office as well as residential telephone connections (for the entitled categories). Since then, a number of plans have become available and the subscriber has an option to choose from amongst these plans keeping in mind his specific requirements. These new plans especially the ones which seek a higher firm commitment/ rental than Rs.250/- per month (Of plan 250) offer a number of frills like a higher number of free calls and lower call charges etc. Net saving is likely to result by switching over to an appropriate plan from the existing 'Plan 250'.

5. In view of the above, it has been decided to permit the Departments/Organizations etc. to choose an appropriate plan of MTNL /BSNL in consultation with the Financial Advisors with due regard to consumption pattern (the number of calls being made per month from a telephone). Care, however, needs to be taken to ensure that an appropriate plan is chosen. Thus monthly commitment being made under a Plan in respect of a telephone connection has to be such that the rental to be paid is lower than or at best equal to the minimum expenditure incurred (on that 'office telephone') during the past twelve months. This is essential as otherwise, plans offering more frills may get subscribed to even though the subscriber may not be in a position to avail the entire benefit on offer

6. All Ministries/Departments may implement this O.M. It is reiterated that no additional funds shall be provided for this purpose and concerned Ministries/Departments/Organizations will have to meet all the expenditure on this account within the existing budget for 'Office Expenses- Telephones'.



(MOHINDER KUMAR)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India
All Financial Advisers