

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:546
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2000
REDUCTION IN TARIFF
SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the tariffs of cellular mobile telephones, long distance surface call facility, Internet and STD facilities, to give the benefit to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a), (b) & (c)

After promulgation of the TRAI Act, 1997, the tariff setting function have been entrusted to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The position in respect of each of the service mentioned in this question is as under :-

i) Cellular Mobile Telephones :

The Authority is conducting a review of cellular mobile tariffs in the context of change in the License Fee Regime from fixed license fee to revenue sharing which reduces the financial burden on the operators.

ii) Long Distance STD and ISD calls :

Through their March, 1999 order, the TRAI have reduced Long Distance (STD and ISD) rates at an average of 20% which have beer made effective from 1st May, 1999.

iii) Internet :

Tariff setting has been left to market forces.