

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3304  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008  
INCREASE IN TARIFF RATE OF TELECOM SERVICES  
Thummar Shri Virjibhai;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether many private telecom operators have colluded to hike the telecom tariff rates in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms laid down by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997, the power to regulate tariff of telecom services in the country is vested with TRAI. TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has put most of the tariffs (except for fixed line rural, roaming and circuits) of telecom services under forbearance. This means that service providers are at liberty, subject to certain regulatory principles of TRAI, to offer a variety of tariff packages to subscribers. So far, TRAI has not come across any instance of private telecom operators colluding to hike telecom tariff rates in the country.

(b) & (c) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (a) as above.