

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2914
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010
TARIFF RATES FOR TELECOM SERVICES
Joshi Shri Mahesh

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

- (a) whether the tariff rates for various Telecom services in the country are more in comparison to other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the Country-wise details of pulse rate being charged for various Telecom services separately in America, Australia, China, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the tariff for various Telecom services in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

- (a) & (b) Madam, Telecom tariff in India is considered to be on the lower side internationally. However, International comparison of tariff for telecom services is rendered difficult because of multiplicity of alternative tariff packages and frequent changes therein.
- (c) Information on present pulse rates for various countries is not available.
- (d) The Government has allowed more telecom operators from time to time. Also, regulation of Tariff has been mandated to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide the TRAI Act of 1997. As per the existing guidelines of TRAI, tariff for telecom services are mostly under forbearance. Thus, the Telecom Companies have the flexibility to offer a combination of tariffs that are subject to the ceilings and certain regulatory principles prescribed by TRAI. The increased competition and flexibility given to service providers for fixing tariff has led to substantial reduction in tariff.