

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3487
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
REDUCTION IN TELECOM TARIFF
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Private Mobile Telecom Companies have revised their rate/tariff frequently due to which the subscribers face the difficulty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) & (b) Regulation of Tariff has been mandated to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide the TRAI Act, 1997. The tariff framework prescribed by TRAI gives flexibility to the operators to offer different tariffs depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. Subscribers are free to choose from various tariff offers available as per their requirement. The subscribers have also the right to migrate from one tariff package to another. TRAI has mandated that the telecom service providers shall not specify any condition or barrier (tariff or non-tariff) when telecom subscribers seek to migrate across plans or across postpaid and prepaid platforms.

(c) In order to protect the interest of the subscribers from frequent revision in tariff, TRAI has issued following guidelines -

1. A tariff plan once offered to the subscribers by the Service Providers should be available for the subscriber for a minimum period of six months.
2. Any tariff plan presented, marketed or offered as valid for any prescribed period exceeding six months or as having lifetime or unlimited validity in lieu of an upfront payment shall continue to be available to the subscriber for the duration of the period as prescribed in the plan and in case of lifetime or unlimited validity plans, as long as the Service Provider is permitted to provide service.
3. No tariff item in a plan shall be increased by the Service Providers in the following situations:-
 - i) In respect of tariff plans with prescribed periods of validity of more than six months including tariff plans with lifetime or unlimited validity and also involving an upfront payment to be made by the subscriber towards such validity period, during the entire period of validity specified in the tariff plan;
 - ii) In respect of other tariff plans, within six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber, and,
 - iii) In the case of recharge coupons with a validity of more than six months under any tariff plan, during the entire period of validity of such recharge coupon.