

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3675
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010
ZERO RENTAL PLAN
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether some mobile telecom companies are misleading the customers by offering zero rental plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps 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 of 1997. As per the extant TRAI guidelines, there is no bar on offering tariff plans such as Zero Rental Plans provided that there are no fixed monthly charges applicable in such plans.

(c) In order to protect the interest of the subscribers and to enhance transparency in the provision of service, TRAI has issued Direction to the Telecom companies on 16th September, 2005, which inter-alia mandates-

(i) No tariff plan shall be offered, presented, marketed or advertised in a manner that is likely to mislead the subscribers. For example, title of a tariff plan which suggests absence of Rental would be misleading if the plan has Monthly Mandatory Fixed charge in one form or other.

(ii) All monthly fixed recurring charges which are compulsory for a subscriber under any given plan shall be shown under one head. This should also include charges for Value Added Services if such Value Added Services are not optional for the subscriber.