

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2165  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011  
SETTLEMENT CHARGES FOR CALLS  
Das Shri Khagen;Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

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

- (a) whether there is a disparity in settlement charges for calls to middle east countries, amongst operators in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering a proposal for ensuring level playing field for operators so that customers are benefited;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Department of Telecommunications (DOT) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have been assigned the task of intervening in the matter; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reported that it has been brought to its notice that operators in Middle East have unilaterally raised the settlement rate paid by Indian International Long Distance Operators (ILDs) for the traffic from India to those countries. However, the settlement rates paid by the foreign operators to Indian operators is low due to intense competition amongst Indian service providers.

(c) & (d) Regulation of tariff for telecom services has been mandated to TRAI vide TRAI Act of 1997.

(e) & (f) TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has put carriage charges for International Long Distance calls including International termination charges (i.e. International settlement ) under forbearance. However, in view of (a) & (b) above, TRAI has sought views of the stakeholders on the issue.