

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:287

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012

TELECOM TARIFF

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Lingam Shri P.

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

(a) whether the call rates of mobile telephones are likely to increase by at least 30 per cent if the Government fails to conduct auction for 2G spectrum by June 2, 2012 when the 122 licences of eight operators will be cancelled following the Supreme Court verdict in February this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 287 FOR 25.04.2012 REGARDING "TELECOM TARIFF"

(a) It is difficult to predict likely changes in call rates of mobile telephones in the wake of cancellation of 122 licenses as per Supreme Court verdict, because, as per the current Tariff framework, call rates of mobile services are under forbearance except for national roaming where ceiling tariff has been specified. Mobile operators have the flexibility to offer different tariff depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) In order to protect the interest of the consumers, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has mandated following stipulations:-  
(1) No tariff items in the tariff plan shall be increased:- (i) In respect of tariff plans with prescribed periods of validity of more than six months including tariff plans with lifetime or unlimited validity 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. (2) Not more than 25 tariff plans are allowed to be offered by a Service Provider for a particular service at any given point of time. (3) The tariff are reported to TRAI within 7 days of implementation. The tariff reports are subjected to scrutiny in order to ensure that they are in compliance with regulatory requirements. Also, whenever tariff are revised upward, it is ensured that these are not applied to subscribers who enjoy tariff protection as per the provisions of Tariff orders issued by TRAI.