

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1093
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2009
INTRODUCTION OF FREE ROAMING SERVICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide free roaming services for mobile telephony in the States adjoining National Capital Region (NCR);
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of States adjoining NCR where roaming services have been made free;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce free roaming services in the entire country;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997, the power to regulate tariff of telecom services in the country is vested with TRAI. TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has notified tariff for national roaming service vide Telecommunication Tariff (44th Amendment) Order notified on 24th January, 2007. This order, inter-alia prescribed a composite ceiling charges for regional/national roaming as follows:-

- (i) Rs. 1.40 per minute for outgoing local calls;
- (ii) Rs. 2.40 per minute for outgoing NLD calls;
- (iii) Rs. 1.75 per minute for incoming calls;
- (iv) No rental permitted in any form.

Service providers have been given flexibility to determine tariff for roaming service within the above prescribed ceiling and this is applicable for States adjoining NCR also.

(c) As stated above, service providers are free to offer roaming services at tariffs within the prescribed ceilings of TRAI. Therefore, Service Providers are at liberty to offer roaming service free of charge.

(d) & (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.