

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6658

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012

MOBILE PHONE TARIFF

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to bring down the mobile telephone charges from their current levels in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether as per the existing guidelines of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRA1), the telecom operators have to file tariffs of all telecom services before starting such services;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the names of the 3G services providers who have filed the tariff plans along with the date of filing such plans and those who have not done so before starting their services;
- (d) whether TRAI has introduced new tariff order/guidelines particularly regarding `one second pulse rate` and ceiling on tariff for calls and SMS meant for participating in contests and games;
- (e) if so, the salient features of the new tariff order and the reaction of the telecom operators thereto; and
- (f) the time-frame fixed for implementation of the new tariff order/guidelines/policy?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

- (a) 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 tariffs depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations.
- (b) No, Madam.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) & (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued the Telecommunication Tariff (51 Amendment) Order on 20.04.2012 which, inter alia, provides as under:-
 - (i) Every service provider providing cellular mobile service shall offer to the subscriber at least one prepaid and one postpaid tariff plan with pulse duration of one second for local and national long distance calls,
 - (ii) The charges for calls and SMS sent to participate in contests and competitions and to vote in television and radio programmes, shall not exceed four times of the local call charges/SMS charges in the tariff plan opted by the subscriber. TRAI has not received any communication from telecom operators as a reaction to this order.
- (f) Telecommunication Tariff (51st Amendment) Order, 2012 has come into force from the date of its publication in the official gazette i.e. 20.04.2012.