

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4044
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012
LIFETIME INCOMING CALL SCHEME
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether most of the mobile service providers have issued and are issuing their mobile connections in the name of life time free incoming call scheme whereas their licence validity is for a specific period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any action against such companies for issuing mobile connection on misleading information; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the tariff framework in vogue, mobile service providers have the flexibility to fix tariff and other terms and conditions of service subject to certain regulatory guidelines. Most of the mobile service providers have launched tariff plans with lifetime validity and a set of applicable tariff. Such schemes generally involve an upfront payment in lieu of lifetime validity. The service providers have been prescribing certain conditions of minimum recharge/usage as part of the lifetime validity plans. The subscribers in such plans are entitled to enjoy incoming facility subject to fulfillment of the conditions specified in the tariff plans.

(c) & (d) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued regulatory guidelines with a view to protect the interest of lifetime plan consumers. As per the provisions of the Telecommunication Tariff (Thirty third Amendment) Order dated 21-03-2006, any tariff plan presented, marketed or offered as valid for any prescribed period exceeding six months or as having lifeline or unlimited validity in lieu of an upfront payment shall continue to be available to the subscriber for the duration of the period as prescribed in the plan and in case of lifetime or unlimited validity plans, as long as the Service Provider is permitted to provide such telecom service under the current license or renewed license. The service providers are also prohibited from changing tariffs to the disadvantage of the consumers during the entire validity period promised in the plan.