

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3099

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

FREE NATIONAL ROAMING

Bavalia Shri Kujarjibhai Mohanbhai;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) the details of roaming charges levied on mobile users in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to end national roaming charges to mobile users;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the telecom operators thereon;
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (e) whether the loss sustained from the national roaming charges is likely to be recouped by an increase in the STD call charges by the telecom operators; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the call charges are not increased by the Telecom Operators?

**Answer**

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

(a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has specified ceiling tariff for national roaming services vide Telecommunication Tariff Order 44th Amendment, details of which are as follows:

Outgoing Local Call - Rs.1.40 per minute

Outgoing STD - Rs.2.40 per minute

Incoming call - Rs.1.75 per minute

Monthly Access Charge for Roaming - NIL

The roaming tariff currently offered by the service providers are below the ceilings prescribed by TRAI. The generally prevailing rates for national roaming services are as follows:

Outgoing Local Call - Re.1/-

Outgoing Long Distance Call - Rs.1.50/-

Incoming call - Rs.1/-

While the above rates are the standard roaming charges offered by most operators, there are also specific tariff plans targeted at roaming subscribers where roaming call charges as low as Rs.0.60/- per minute are available for Local/STD calls.

(b) to (d) The National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12), approved by the Government, contains inter-alia the following provisions:-

- i) Achieve One Nation-Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards one Nation-Free Roaming.
- ii) To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charge across the nation.

Detailed policy framework would be put in place within one year for achieving short term objectives and within three years for medium term objectives.

(e) & (f) Currently tariff for telecom services (including that for STD calls) is under forbearance except rental, free call allowance and

local call charges in the case of fixed line rural subscribers, roaming services and for leased circuits. The tariff framework prescribed by TRAI gives flexibility to the operators to offer different tariffs depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations.