

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:472  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013  
CALL TERMINATION CHARGES  
Vijayan Shri A.K.S.

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

- (a) whether the cost of termination charges for both domestic and international calls are the same;
- (b) if so, the reasons for TRAI deviating from its established principle of termination charges on the basis of cost to benefit certain selected operators;
- (c) whether there is a disparity in the termination charges of 20 paise per minute for domestic calls and 40 paise per minute for international calls;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has asked TRAI to look into these aspects and frame a policy; and
- (e) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) Madam, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued "The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Tenth Amendment) Regulations, 2009 (2 of 2009) dated the 9th March 2009" wherein the termination charge for domestic calls and international incoming calls has been fixed as 20 paise per minute and 40 paise per minute respectively. To review the termination charges, TRAI issued Pre Consultation paper on 24.12.2010 and Consultation Paper titled 'Review of Interconnection Usage Charges' on 27.04.2011. Following elaborate Consultation process, a report was filed in Hon'ble Supreme court on 31.10.2011 in compliance with its order dated 29.07.2011 in Civil Appeal No.271-281/2011.

TRAI has also filed Application seeking permission to notify the regulation relating to revised Interconnection Usage Charges. However Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 13.04.2012, declined to grant the permission. The larger bench was constituted in Supreme Court and matter along with other concerned matters was heard on 20.11.2012 to 22.11.2012 and on 04.12.2012 by the larger bench on the question of law involved that whether TDSAT has the power, competence and jurisdiction to exercise powers of judicial review, over the regulations framed under section 36(1) of the TRAI Act, 1997. Arguments have been completed and order reserved. Further action will be taken as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) Section 11(1) (b) (iv) of TRAI (Amendment ) Act 2000, inter-alia, provides that TRAI shall discharge the following function namely:

"regulate arrangement amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunications services."

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.