

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2701

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013

INCREASE IN TELECOM TARIFF

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

(a) whether the private mobile companies operating in the country have arbitrarily increased the call rates of their mobile service, special value vouchers and are changing their tariff plans frequently for both post-paid and pre-paid services;

(b) if so, the details thereof, operatorwise and the reasons for such increase along with the guidelines of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard;

(c) whether the public sector telecom companies are likely to follow suits in view of the increase in spectrum charges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to protect the interest of consumers?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) As per the current tariff framework, tariff for mobile services is 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. Tariff for mobile services are offered as a bouquet consisting of various components. The revisions carried out by mobile operators may be in one or more of the price items and the same may be different for different operators and for different service areas. Recently, some telecom access service providers hiked certain components of mobile tariff. In many cases, the hike is in the nature of withdrawal of concessions, reduction of free minutes and/or reduced validity in Special Tariff Vouchers. Such hikes, however, have not substantially altered the average outgo per outgoing minute.

The Service Providers are required to report to the Authority any new tariff/changes in the tariff within 7 days after its implementation for information and record of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) after conducting a self check to ensure that the tariff plans are consistent with the regulatory principles in all respects which, inter-alia, include non-discrimination, non-predation and Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) compliance.

(c) As of now, no increase in tariff is contemplated by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

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