

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:316

ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014

NATIONAL ROAMING

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai; Sugumar Shri K.

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

- (a) the details of specified ceiling tariff for national roaming in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government has gradually started implementing the New National Telecom Policy and also proposes to make certain changes in it;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the measures taken to simplify the telecom tariff and bring transparency in it;
- (d) whether both the PSU telecom companies, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), propose to make the national roaming free from March, 2014 onwards; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 316 FOR 12TH FEBRUARY, 2014 REGARDING "NATIONAL ROAMING"

(a) The details of specified ceiling tariff for national roaming in the country at present as prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) through Telecom Tariff Order (55th Amendment), 1999 dated 17.06.2013 (effective from 01.07.2013) are indicated as below:-

Item	Ceiling tariff as per 55th Amendment to TTO, 1999
Charge for outgoing local voice call	Ceiling of Re.1.00 per minute
Charge for outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	Ceiling of Rs.1.50 per minute
Charge for incoming voice call	Ceiling of Re.0.75 per minute
Charge for outgoing local SMS	Ceiling of Re 1.00 per SMS
Charge for outgoing long distance (inter-circle) SMS	Ceiling of Rs.1.50 per SMS

(b) & (c) One of the objectives of National Telecom Policy 2012 is to work towards One Nation - Free Roaming. Through 55th Amendment to TTO, 1999, TRAI has reduced the ceiling tariffs for national roaming service, permitted Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) and Combo Vouchers for roaming tariffs to provide flexibility and convenience to the consumers. This amendment also mandated the wireless access service providers to offer special Roaming Tariff Plans and Roaming Tariff Plans Free (RTP and RTP-FR) in which the subscribers can avail partially free roaming, or fully free roaming in lieu of payment of fixed charges, by subscribing to RTP and RTP-FR respectively.

(d) MTNL has introduced free incoming facility while roaming in MTNL network in licence area of Delhi and Mumbai for MTNL customers w.e.f. 26.01.2014.

BSNL has nation wide free roaming facility to its customers with nominal charge of Re.1/- per day. This feature is offered as a Special Tariff Voucher costing Rs.90/- with unlimited incoming calls free in roaming & outgoing local and national calls @ 1.5 paise per second while roaming with validity of 90 days.

(e) All the wireless access service providers including BSNL and MTNL have implemented the tariff for national roaming in accordance with the reduced ceilings prescribed through the 55th Amendment to TTO, 1999. The service providers have also launched special tariff plans for roaming (RTPs & RTP-FRs). Some of the service providers have also launched special tariff vouchers for national roaming.