

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:341  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009  
TARIFF FIXATION BY TELECOM OPERATORS  
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the telecom service providers have the flexibility to offer a variety of tariff plans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) propose to charge per second basis on landline services;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) exercises any regulatory role in the tariff fixation by telecom operators; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) 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 (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 341 FOR 14th DECEMBER, 2009 ON "TARIFF FIXATION BY TELECOM OPERATORS".

(a) Yes, Madam .

(b) The power to notify the rates at which telecommunication services are to be provided by various telecom operators in the country has been vested in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide the TRAI Act of 1997. The TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has notified Telecommunications Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 as amended from time to time. As per the existing provisions of TTO, tariffs for telecom services are under forbearance, except with regard to Fixed Line Service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service and Leased Line Service. Thus, the telecom service providers have the flexibility to offer variety of tariff plans targeting different categories of subscribers.

(c) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) to charge on per second basis on landline services.

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

(e) Yes, Madam .

(f) As mentioned above, the telecom service providers have the freedom to offer variety of tariff plans targeting different categories of subscribers. However, they are required to report to the Authority any new tariff for telecommunication services and changes in the tariff within 7 days after its implementation for information and record of the Authority 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.