

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014

ROAMING CHARGES FOR MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS

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

- (a) the roaming charges for mobile subscribers in the country, at present, company-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to discontinue the roaming charges for mobile subscribers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to direct the telecom operators not to increase STD tariffs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) After a comprehensive consultation process, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued Telecommunication Tariff (55th Amendment) Order, 2013 dated 17.06.2013, which came into effect from 01.07.2013. This amendment brought about the following changes in the tariff regime for national roaming service:

(i) The ceiling tariffs for national roaming service have been reduced. The prescribed ceiling are indicated in the table given below :

Item	Ceiling tariff
Outgoing local voice call	Re.1.00 per minute
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call	Rs.1.50 per minute
Incoming voice call	Re.0.75 per minute
Outgoing local SMS	Re.1.00 per SMS
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) SMS	Rs.1.50 per SMS

(ii) Special Tariff Vouchers (STVs) and Combo Vouchers (CVs) with benefits of national roaming have been allowed to provide flexibility and convenience to the consumers.

(iii) The service providers have been mandated to offer special tariff plans for roaming (Roaming Tariff plan(RTP) and Roaming Tariff plan-Free(RTP-FR)). 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.

All mobile service providers are offering tariff for national roaming service within the prescribed ceilings. There are options made available to subscribers where lower national roaming rates are available depending upon the plan, STVs and CVs the subscriber chooses. The charges vary across different service providers and also across different plans, STVs and CVs of a service provider.

(b) & (c) Presently there is no proposal before the Government to discontinue the roaming charges for the mobile subscribers.

(d) & (e) As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for mobile services (including STD tariff) is under forbearance except for national roaming services. The operators have flexibility to offer different tariff packages targeted at different customer user groups, subject to the condition that these tariffs have to be consistent with the regulatory principles of non-discrimination, non-predation etc.