

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5865

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015

ROAMING ON MOBILE CALLS AND SMSS

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to slash ceiling or maximum rate that telecom operator can charge for STD calls on roaming and also on SMS as recommended by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has assessed its repercussions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and whether Cellular Operators Association of India has opposed this move and asked to leave the revision of roaming rates to the market forces;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of telecom operators that have agreed to follow the TRAI guidelines and date by which these charges are likely to take effect?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Through Draft Telecommunication Tariff (60th Amendment) Order, 2015 dated 27.02.2015, TRAI proposed reduction in ceiling tariffs for voice calls and outgoing SMS while on national roaming and sought comments of the stakeholders.

In response, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), telecom service providers and a few other stakeholders furnished their comments. After examining the comments of the stakeholders and further analysis, TRAI has made the following changes in the tariff regime for national roaming through the Telecommunication Tariff (60th Amendment) Order, 2015 dated 09.04.2015, which will come into effect from 01.05.2015.

Reduced the ceilings tariff for voice calls and SMS while on national roaming:

The table given below presents the reduction in tariff for national roaming service.

Item	Existing ceiling per TTO (60th tariff Amendment), 2015 w.e.f 01.05.2015	Ceiling tariff as per TTO (60th tariff Amendment), 2015 w.e.f 01.05.2015	Percentage reduction
Outgoing local voice call minute	Re.1.00 per minute	Re.0.80 per minute	20%
Outgoing long distance (inter-circle) voice call minute	Re.1.50 per minute	Re.1.15 per minute	23%
Incoming voice call minute	Re.0.75 per minute	Re.0.45 per minute	40%
Outgoing local SMS	Rs.1.00 per SMS	Rs.0.25 per SMS	75%
Outgoing long distance (inter circle) SMS	Re.1.50 per SMS	Re.0.38 per SMS	75%

TRAI has removed the existing mandate to the TSPs for providing Roaming Tariff Plan

(RTP)/ Roaming Tariff Plan- Free (RTP-FR) and has mandated the TSPs to offer a Special Roaming Tariff Plan to its pre-paid and post-paid subscribers. In Special Roaming Tariff Plan, incoming voice calls while on national roaming shall be free, on payment of fixed charge, if any.