

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2030

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2016

Regulation of Internet Tariff

De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna;Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Fatepara Shri Devajibhai Govindbhai;Hari Shri G.;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Maragatham Smt. K.;Parthipan Shri R.;Reddy Shri Ch. Malla

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

- a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is empowered to regulate the Internet tariffs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken to empower TRAI for the purpose;
- (c) whether the TRAI has rejected the principle of differential pricing and controversial services like free basics and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether this is likely to affect the Government programme for Internet connectivity in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) Yes Madam, Section 11(2) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 empowers TRAI to notify tariff for various telecommunication services.
- (c) TRAI has issued "Prohibition of discriminatory tariff for Data services Regulations, 2016" on 8th February, 2016 which inter-alia has mandated the following:
  - (i) No service provider shall offer or charge discriminatory tariffs for data service on the basis of content.
  - (ii) No service provider shall enter into any arrangement, agreement or contract, by whatever name called, with any person, natural or legal, that has the effect of discriminatory tariffs for data services being offered or charged by the service provider for the purpose of evading the prohibition in this regulation.
  - (iii) Reduced tariff, for accessing or providing emergency services or at times of public emergency, has been permitted.
- (d) & (e) No Madam, this will not affect the Government programme for Internet connectivity in the country.

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