

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:244
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
INTERNET USAGE CHARGES
IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has asked certain cellular Mobile Telephone Service providers to hold in abeyance the proposed increase in air time cost of STD, ISD calls announced by them;
- (b) if so, whether the telecom service providers and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India have agreed to an interim solution for implementation of the internet usage charges from May, 2003;
- (c) if so, whether there has been a demand for roll back of increase in the cost of making calls from fixed phone;
- (d) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(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 STA QUESTION NO. 244 FOR 6TH AUGUST, 2003 REGARDING INTERNET USAGE CHARGES.

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC) Regulation on 24th January 2003 specifying the amounts of IUC charge to be paid and received by various operators. The regulation has become effective from 1st May, 2003. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has received feedback and representations from service providers and other stakeholders on tariffs applicable under the new IUC regime. TRAI has decided to review the IUC regime to address various points raised with respect to the present regime. Till such time that a revised IUC is notified and implemented, the present IUC regime will continue to prevail.

No origination/termination charge has been specified for Internet Service Providers in the IUC Regulation issued on 24th January, 2003. This Regulation of TRAI provides that if no charge is specified, it is subject to forbearance i.e. it can be mutually negotiated between service providers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited(BSNL) has rolled back the tariffs for calls from Wire Line and Fixed Wireless subscribers to Cellular subscribers within 50 Kms from Point of Interconnection of the two networks. Such calls are charged at the rate of Rs. 1.20 for every 60 seconds with effect from 17th May, 2003 instead of Rs. 1.20 for every 30 seconds made effective from 1st May, 2003. Prior to 1st May, 2003 such calls were charged at a rate of Rs. 1.20 for every 180 seconds. With the implementation of IUC regulation of 24th January, 2003, the Basic Service Operators have to pay termination charges to the Cellular operators and incoming calls have been made free for Cellular subscribers.