

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:469
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2003
RATE OF MTNL AND BSNL
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

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

- (a) whether calling abroad from cell phone has become cheaper as compared to MTNL, BSNL, land line;
- (b) if so, the comparative rates of State Trunk Dialing/International Long Distance tariff as on 1.7.2003;
- (c) whether various cell phone/WLL/MTNL/BSNL are revising their tariff arbitrarily without consulting TRAI; and
- (d) if so, the rates applicable as on 1.7.2003 of various companies as per the approval of the TRAI?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

- (a) Most of the cellular operators have recently revised tariff for International calls. The current rates as reported by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India are cheaper as compared to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited landline International call rates.
- (b) Details of STD/International Long Distance tariff applicable for cellular service, as reported by TRAI, are given in Annexure - I. The STD/ILD rates applicable for MTNL and BSNL landline subscribers are given in Annexure-II.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Annexure - I

STD/ILD rates applicable for Cellular subscribers

(Rs. per minute)

1 Calls from Cellular to Cellular	Rs. 1.99 to Rs. 2.99
2 Calls from Cellular to WLL	Rs. 1.99 to Rs. 3.99
3 Calls from Cellular to PSTN	Rs. 1.99 to Rs. 3.99
4 ISD call rate	Rs. 15.99 to Rs. 17.99

Notes:

- (i) The STD rates varies within the range given above according to distance slabs and also for different operators/tariff plans.
- (ii) The Rates shown are offered by most celluler operators. However, long distance tariff of few celluler operators inclusive of airtime charge is higher than the corresponding BSNL/MTNL landline rates.
- (iii) In some cases where the monthly fixed charges of particular tariff plan is substantially higher, the STD rates are below the range indicated above.

(iv) Few celluler operators charge ISD rates equivalent to the corresponding rates for BSNL landline subscribers.

Annexure - II

STD/ILD rates applicable for MTNL/BSNL subscribers

(i) National Long Distance charges

INTER CIRCLE

Charges (Rs. per minute)

Distance (Kms) Fixed to fixed Fixed to Cell Fixed to WLL(M)

0-50	1.20	2.40	1.20
50-100	1.20	2.40	2.40
100-200	2.40	2.40	2.40
200-500	4.80	3.60	4.80
>500	4.80	3.60	4.80

INTRA CIRCLE

Charges (Rs. per minute)

Distance (Kms) Fixed to fixed Fixed to Cell Fixed to WLL(M)

0-50	1.20	2.40	1.20
50-100	2.40	2.40	1.20
100-200	2.40	2.40	2.40
200-500	2.40	2.40	2.40
>500	2.40	2.40	2.40

(ii) International Long Distance Tariff

Slab Country Peak Rate Off-peak Rate

Slab-I	SAARC and other neighbouring countries	21.18	18.00
Slab-II	Africa, Europe, Gulf, etc	24.00	21.18
Slab-III	America and other places in Western Hemisphere	24.00	21.18