

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:32
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2003
DOMESTIC TELEPHONE TARIFF
GANTA SRINIVASA RAO

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

- (a) whether the domestic telephone tariff is higher than that of mobile phones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the percentage of the people using mobile services?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) 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 (c) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 32 FOR 3RD DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING DOMESTIC TELEPHONE TARIFF.

(a) & (b): It is extremely difficult to compare domestic telephone tariffs for basic and mobile phones because of the large number of tariff packages offered by operators. Moreover, there is no uniform rate of domestic tariff either in basic or in cellular service. The call charges vary between different operators and also depend on Alternative Tariff Packages chosen by a particular subscriber.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India recently conducted a study on the comparative effective charge per minute for 400 minutes of usage per month in local calls. The result of the study showed the following effective charge per minute in respect of operators with the lowest tariff in each of the categories for fixed service, WLL(M) and cellular service. This is based on data furnished by service providers on 30.6.2003 in their Quarterly Report to TRAI.

Fixed : Re. 0.78
WLL(M) : Re. 0.67
Cellular : Rs. 1.12

Cellular operators are offering a variety of long distance tariff packages. The lowest rate per minute for a domestic long distance call from a mobile phone is less than the rate applicable for calls from fixed phones.

(c) The percentage of people using mobile services in the country is around 2.3%. This includes both cellular services and WLL(Mobile) services.