

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1128
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
TELEPHONE CHARGES
RASHID ALVI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the telephone charges in India are the highest amongst developing countries as also the developed countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of monthly rental charges in 10 developing countries and in 10 developed countries, indicating their average national per capita income;
- (d) whether any norms have been fixed by the International Communication Union of which India is a member; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. A straight comparison of rates of telephone calls etc. between one country and another may not yield an analytically tenable conclusion because of variations in cost socio-economic conditions and other factors. For example, according to World Telecom Development Report of the International Telecom Union (ITU)-1998, the tariff structure indifferent countries in 1996 was as follows:

Name of the Country Residential Telephone
Connection charge Rental (monthly) Local Call Charges
(in US \$)

India	23	5.4	0.02
Bangladesh	256	3.7	0.04
Ethiopia	48	1.3	0.03
Kenya	37	4.5	0.06
Mozambique	87	5.1	0.04
Nepal	40	3.7	0.02
Tanzania	59	4.4	0.08
Tajikistan	10	1.0	-
Uganda	132	5.7	0.19
Vietnam	243	6.1	0.11
Australia	94	9.1	-
Belgium	143	18.8	0.20
Canada	42	13.2	-
France	60	5.7	0.14
Germany	66	16.3	0.16
Italy	154	10.1	0.20
Japan	669	16.1	0.09
Singapore	56	6.0	0.03
U.K	181	12.9	-
U.S.A	43	12.2	0.09

From the above it is clear that in totality the Telephone charges in India compare very favourably with those in other countries.

(c) As per the world Telecom Development Report 1998 of ITU details of the monthly rentalcharges of 10 developing and 10 developed Countries for 1996 and their monthly Gross Domestic Products (GDP) per capita are as follows:

Name of the Country Residential Rental charges Average GDP per capita 1995
in (US\$) 1996 (monthly) in (US\$) P.M.

India	5.4	27.97
Bangladesh	3.7	20.10
Ethiopia	1.3	7.87
Kenya	4.5	25.14
Mozambique	5.1	7.17
Nepal	3.7	15.74
Tanzania	4.4	18.80
Tajikistan	1.0	3.09
Uganda	5.7	24.15
Vietnam	6.1	22.67

High income/developed Countries.

Australia	9.1	1820
Belgium	18.8	2350
Canada	13.2	2640
France	10.3	2575
Germany	16.3	2328
Italy	10.1	2020
Japan	16.1	3220
Singapore	6.0	3000
U.K	12.9	1612
U.S.A	12.2	2440

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.