

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2295
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006
TELEPHONE TARIFF
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the present domestic telephone tariff is higher than that of mobile phones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to rationalize the telephone tariff?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997 empowers the Authority to notify the rates at which telecommunication services shall be provided. In view of this, the Government does not fix tariffs for telecom services in the country.

Under the extant regime notified by TRAI, the tariff for telecom services is under forbearance, except in the case of rural subscribers in fixed line, roaming services in mobile telephony and for leased circuits.

The individual service providers are thus free to offer various tariff plans for their subscribers and these may vary greatly in terms of the combinations of monthly rental, call charges and free call allowances, depending upon their commercial and cost considerations. In fact, today there exist several alternative plans/ schemes in each Service Area for basic as well as cellular service and hence comparison of domestic telephone tariff for basic telephones with that of mobile phones is rather untenable.