

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2196
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
CHEAPER LANDLINE /ROAMING CHARGES
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.;Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce cheaper local landline call charges and mobile roaming charges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the pulse rates of mobile phone calls are likely to come down further;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to fix any standard/model pulse rate in view of the difficulties faced by the subscribers due to frequent changes in pulse rates; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority) Act, telecom tariff is under forbearance, except for rural subscribers, roaming charges for Cellular Services and leased circuits. In BSNL and MTNL, at present, there is no such proposal for reduction of local land line call charges and mobile roaming charges.

(c) TRAI has initiated a consultation process on review of ceiling tariff for roaming services by issuing a consultation paper seeking comments from various stakeholders.

(d) & (e) As per the TRAI Act, all Service Providers (including the two PSUs, namely BSNL and MTNL) are given the flexibility to offer any combination of tariffs, subject to certain regulatory principles. In BSNL and MTNL, at present, there is no such proposal for reduction of pulse rates of mobile phone calls.

(f) & (g) Vide the 31st Amendment to Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) dated 7th July, 2004, TRAI has mandated that any tariff once offered to a customer, must be available for a minimum period of six months from the date of enrolment. During this period of six months, the service providers are not permitted to increase any item of tariff, including the pulse rate. The Regulatory Authority (TRAI) has also issued 43rd Amendment to TTO dated 21-03-2006 wherein it was mandated that no tariff item in a tariff plan shall be increased by the access provider during the entire period of validity in respect of lifetime or unlimited validity plans and also involving an upfront payment. All Service Providers, including BSNL and MTNL have to comply with the TRAI instructions.