

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:204
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
CEILING ON CALL CHARGES
Mahato Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) the per call charges, local, STD, ISD and roaming, collected by various cellular operators in the country;
- (b) the extent to which these charges can be compared with those at international level;
- (c) whether the Government imposes any ceiling on call charges at the time of giving licence to cellular operators; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 204 FOR 6TH DECEMBER, 2006 REGARDING CEILING ON CALL CHARGES

(a) to (d) As per the terms and conditions of the licence, tariff for Telecommunication services shall be as per the Tariff Orders/Regulations/directions issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. The Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) notified by TRAI provides flexibility to cellular telephone operators to fix tariffs including call charges.

The cellular operators are offering various tariff plans for their subscribers and these plans vary in terms of combination of monthly rentals, call charges and free call allowance. There are quite a large number of alternative tariff plans in each service area. Since these plans are offered as a package, comparison of call charges alone may not be meaningful.

No ceiling on call charges have been prescribed for mobile services by TRAI except for national roaming. For national roaming service, ceiling monthly access charge of Rs. 100, ceiling airtime charge of Rs. 3/- per minute, surcharge of 15% on airtime and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) charges as applicable, has been specified.

International comparison of tariff for telecom services would be rendered difficult because of multiplicity of tariff packages, varying exchange rates, differences in purchasing power and tele-density across countries. However, telecom tariff in India, in general, is amongst the lowest internationally.