

[14th December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) for Punjab (State level), Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Pathankot and Sangrur have been constituted in the year 1999. All the recommendations received for TACs including those from the MPs from Punjab as well as individuals are considered against the prescribed guidelines and final approval is given by the competent authorities viz Minister of Communications and Minister of States for Communications. Thus the finally constituted TACs have members recommended by Hon'ble MPs as well as those recommended by others or individuals themselves.

Incoming Mobile Calls Tariff

1248. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incoming mobile calls are not yet free from 1st November, 1999 as announced;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the new tariff will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) As per the Telecommunications Tariff (Fifth Amendment) Order 1999 and Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing—First Amendment) Regulation 1999, both issued by TRAI on 17.9.1999, the Calling Party Pays Regime (CPP) was to be implemented with effect from 1st November, 1999. A petition was filed by an independent organisation named 'watchdog' against the 'Calling Party Pays Regime (CPP)' and MTNL filed petition against the revenue sharing arrangement as prescribed in the regulation. Department of Telecommunication Services has also got itself impleaded in the petition of MTNL, as the implementation of the CPP regime as per the proposed regulation is expected to cause huge revenue loss to DTS as well. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has stayed the implementation of the CPP regime. Presently the matter is sub-judice.