

| 1 | 2 | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Kolkata | 0 | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 52117 | 6142 |
| Maharashtra | 43652 | 10521 |
| North East-1 | 7347 | 535 |
| North East-2 | 7456 | 1889 |
| Orissa | 47529 | 10093 |
| Punjab | 12367 | 10021 |
| Rajasthan | 41353 | 5672 |
| Tamilnadu | 14670 | 9380 |
| Uttar Pradesh East | 77575 | 25763 |
| Uttar Pradesh West | 23781 | 3753 |
| Uttaranchal | 16336 | 2923 |
| West Bengal | 37512 | 12831 |
| TOTAL | 601625 | 169201 |

Raising of call rates by mobile operators

2054. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several mobile operators have announced to raise the call rates/tariff by around 20 per cent;

(b) if so, Government's view and reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is observing the reasons behind such a hike announced by the mobile operators; and

(d) if so, Government's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Recently, several mobile operators have increased tariffs applicable for certain plans and packs offered by them.

(b) Regulation of Tariff has been mandated to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vide the TRAI Act of 1997. As per the current tariff framework in vogue, tariff for mobile services is under forbearance except for roaming services (ceilings prescribed by TRAI). Therefore, the operators have the flexibility to offer different tariffs depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. These tariffs have however to be consistent with the regulatory principles prescribed by TRAI.

(c) The hike effected by the telecom operators is not across the board, but for certain plans/schemes and for certain categories of calls. The major change is in respect of on-network Local and STD charges which have been restructured to be at par with off-net call charges. The service providers have attributed this change to increase in the cost of providing service, decline in profitability, to improve the quality of service despite spectrum constraints and to bring in uniformity in the on-net charges vis-a-vis off-net usage charges.

(d) Mobile operators have been revising the tariff both upward and downward, in accordance with the market dynamics. However, as a whole, the tariff for telecom services has been showing consistently downward trend for several years. TRAI has issued regulatory prescriptions as per which the existing subscribers are protected from any hike in tariff for a certain specified period. Operators have assured TRAI that tariff for the existing subscribers will be protected against hike in accordance with the regulatory mandates.

TRAI recommendations on spectrum pricing

2055. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

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

(a) whether TRAI had made recommendations on spectrum pricing in May, 2010 and subsequently in February, 2011;

(b) whether TRAI has recommended current price of spectrum as Rs. 1769.75 crores per MHz for spectrum upto 6.2 MHz and Rs. 4571.87 crores per MHz for spectrum beyond 6.2 MHz;