

Roaming and STD charges

838. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

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

- (a) the roaming charges for mobile subscribers in the country at present;
- (b) whether Government proposes to abolish roaming charges for mobile subscribers from the year 2013;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government would direct the operators not to increase STD tariffs so that consumers get the benefit of doing away of roaming charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has specified ceiling tariff for national roaming services, details of which are as follows:

Outgoing Local Call	-	Rs. 1.40 per minute
Outgoing STD	-	Rs.2.40 per minute
Incoming Call	-	Rs. 1.75 per minute

The roaming tariff currently offered by service providers are below the ceilings prescribed by TRAI. The generally prevailing rates for national roaming services are given below:

Outgoing Local Call	-	Rs. 1/- per minute
Outgoing Long Distance	-	Rs. 1.50 per minute
Incoming Call	-	Rs. 1/- per minute

While the above rates are the standard roaming charges offered by most operators, there are also specific tariff plans, targeted at roaming subscribers, where roaming call charges as low as Rs. 0.60/- per minute are available for Local/STD calls.

(b) and (c) The National Telecom Policy-2012 (NTP-12), approved on 03.05.2012 by the Government, contains, *inter-alia*, the following provisions:

- (i) Achieve One Nation-Full Mobile Number Portability and work towards one Nation-Free Roaming.
- (ii) To review roaming charges with the ultimate objective of removing the roaming charges across the nation.

Further, as per the implementation schedule of the NTP-12, as contained in the Cabinet Note on NTP-12, the Policy will be operationalized by bringing out detailed guidelines, as may be considered appropriate from time to time.

(d) At present, the mobile phone call rates including STD call charges are under regulatory forbearance, except for national roaming service.

Outsourcing jobs for Indian companies

839. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the findings of International Association of Outsourcing Professionals that "as many as 12 Indian Companies were on the list of top 100 outsourcing companies in the world this year (2012) and three Indian firms have found a place in the top 10";

(b) if so, whether such a position has resulted from getting more outsourcing jobs for Indian companies during the year 2011, as compared to 2010 and 2009; and

(c) the increase in the number of new jobs created and the foreign exchange earnings during 2010 and 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) it is not feasible to co-relate the outcome of the survey made by International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IOAP) 2012 'Global Sourcing 100 data' with the company performance and the increase in outsourcing jobs to India.

(c) The number of jobs added and the foreign exchange earned by Indian IT-ITES industry during the year 2009-10 to 2011-12 is given below: