

- Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme
- Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in balance unserved villages.

**Hike in call rates by private mobile companies**

†2848. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private mobile companies operating in the country are increasing their call rates arbitrarily;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these companies are exploiting their pre-paid customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) and (b) As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for mobile services is under forbearance except for national roaming where ceiling tariff has been specified. Mobile operators have flexibility to offer different tariffs depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. Tariff for mobile services are offered as a bouquet consisting of various components. The revisions carried out by mobile operators may be in one or more of the price items and the same may be different for different operators and for different service areas.

Tariff plans are of bundled nature and the trade-off is generally between monthly fixed charges and variable (call) charges. The average outgo per outgoing minute (Rental revenue + Airtime revenue per outgoing minute), therefore, is a realistic indicator of tariff levels. The average outgo per outgoing minute for the GSM and CDMA Full Mobility service since March, 2008 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Tariff for mobile services have been showing a downward trend for the past several years. However, recently some telecom access service providers hiked certain components of mobile tariff. In many cases, the hike is in the nature of withdrawal of concessions, reduction of free minutes and /or reduced validity in

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Special Tariff Vouchers. Such hikes, however, have not substantially altered the average outgo per outgoing minute, as evident from the Statement.

(c) and (d) With a view to protect the interest of the subscribers from frequent hike in tariff, it has been mandated that no tariff items in the tariff plan shall be increased:

- (i) In respect of tariff plans with prescribed periods of validity of more than six months including tariff plans with lifetime or unlimited validity and also involving an upfront payment to be made by the subscribers towards such validity period, during the entire period of validity specified in the tariff plans;
- (ii) In respect of other tariff plans, within six months from the date of enrolment of the subscriber; and
- (iii) In the case of recharge coupons with a validity of more than six months under any tariff plan, during the entire period of validity of such recharge coupon.

Whenever tariffs are revised upward, it is ensured that the charges are not applied to subscribers who enjoy tariff protection as per the above mentioned provisions of Tariff Orders issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

#### *Statement*

*The average outgo per outgoing minute for the GSM and  
CDMA Full Mobility service since March, 2008*

(In Rs.)

Quarter Ending	GSM	CDMA
1	2	3
March, 2008	0.92	0.79
June, 2008	0.84	0.68
September, 2008	0.79	0.67
December, 2008	0.78	0.61

1	2	3
March, 2009	0.76	0.57
June, 2009	0.74	0.56
September, 2009	0.71	0.57
December, 2009	0.64	0.52
March, 2010	0.57	0.49
June, 2010	0.55	0.48
September, 2010	0.55	0.50
December, 2010	0.52	0.48
March, 2011	0.51	0.47
June, 2011	0.50	0.50
September, 2011	0.50	0.47
December, 2011	0.51	0.49
March, 2012	0.49	0.47
June, 2012	0.48	0.47
September, 2012	0.48	0.49

**Misuse of SIM cards**

2849. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SIM cards used in mobile phones can be faked leading to misuse of user's data;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether small chip (SIM card) can be a major threat to national security as these are manufactured abroad; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to direct the service providers to manufacture SIM cards indigenously?