

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1135
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST AUGUST, 2024**

INCREASE IN MOBILE PHONE USAGE CHARGES

1135 SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent tariff hike of 15 per cent (average) by three leading mobile service providers with effect from July 3, 2024;
- (b) whether Government or Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have conducted any study on need of CAPEX or impact on profitability by purchase of spectrum through auction after taking into account previous set of concessions on AGR payable under Telecom Policy, 1999; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government or TRAI to protect 109 crore consumers from this yearly cellphone charges - an increase of ₹34,824 crore - by telecom companies?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) Yes, tariff has recently been hiked by M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd and M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd.
- (b) No.
- (c) As per the extant regulatory tariff provisions, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance except for services such as National Roaming, Rural Fixed Line Services, USSD services, mobile number portability charges and leased circuits etc. It implies that the TSPs are free to fix tariff for telecommunication services in a competitive market. However, as per the requirements of the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), the TSPs are obligated to file their tariffs with TRAI within 7 working days of their launch in the market. These tariffs are then examined for their compliance with the regulatory principles which include inter alia, the principles of transparency, non-predation and non-discrimination. It may further be mentioned that the Indian telecom tariffs are amongst the lowest in the world and in India's neighbourhood also.
