

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2771
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023**

TWELVE MONTHS TALK TIME FOR THIRTEEN MONTHS RECHARGE

2771 # Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that mobile companies have been offering only twelve months talk time to the consumers as against the recharge payment made for a period of thirteen months;
- (b) if so, whether Government has granted approval for the same;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) if not, whether Government would take any action towards resolving the said anomaly on account of twelve months talktime being offered to consumers as against a recharge made for thirteen months; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) As per the existing tariff framework laid down by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) tariff for telecommunication access service is under forbearance, except for services such as National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services, mobile number portability charges, leased circuits. Nil' tariff has been prescribed to make USSD services exempt to promote financial inclusion etc. among rural unbanked feature phone users. Subject to compliance to extant regulatory provisions set by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) service providers are free to design and offer tariff based on their understanding of the market situation and in their best commercial interest. Service providers have the flexibility to decide various tariff components like the rates for different types of calls, SMS, data offers etc. with multiple combinations including recharge value and validity for different service areas of their operation.

Provisions of sub-clause (1) of clause 2 of the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), 1999, issued by TRAI mandate inter alia that the service provider shall report to the Authority any new tariff for telecom services or any change there under within seven working days from the date of implementation and record of the Authority.

(d) & (e) TRAI through the Telecommunication Tariff (66th Amendment) Order dated 27.01.2022 inter-alia mandated that every Telecom Service Provider shall offer at least one Plan Voucher, one special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher having a validity of thirty days.

Moreover, as per the Telecommunication Tariff (67th Amendment) Order dated 31.03.2022 inter-alia mandated that every telecom service provider shall offer at least one Plan Voucher, one Special Tariff Voucher and one Combo Voucher which shall be renewable on the same date of every month and if the date of such renewal is not available in a month, the date of renewal shall be the last date of the month.
