

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2086
ANSWERED ON 18TH DECEMBER, 2025**

INDIA AS GLOBAL DATA HUB

2086 SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) how communication costs of the country could be compared with developed and developing countries;
- (b) to what extent low cost data, broadband growth in the country would help make India the data capital of the world in the coming four-five years; and
- (c) the advantages India would have on becoming the data capital of the world?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The communication cost in India is one of the lowest in world. The policies of the Government and regulatory framework notified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has resulted into one of the lowest cost for subscribers of mobile services in India. The comparison of mobile services pricing, as published by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2024 consisting of (140 min + 70 SMS + 2GB) for basket of mobile, voice, SMS and data basket in some of the neighboring countries and other countries is given in **Annexure- “A”**.

As per the Provisions of TRAI Act 1997, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), an independent regulator for telecommunication services, regulates the rates of telecommunication services in the country. As per the existing regulatory tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance except for services such as National Roaming, Rural Fixed Line Services, mobile number portability charges, leased circuits and USSD. Subject to compliance with extant regulatory provisions, service providers are free to design and offer tariffs 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. Tariffs are offered by service providers taking into account several factors including input costs, level of competition and other commercial considerations.

India and neighboring countries		
Economy	Measure Names	Measure Value
China	USD	8.56
Afganistan	USD	6.01
Bhutan	USD	4.56
Bangladesh	USD	2.40
Nepal(Republic of)	USD	2.72
India	USD	1.86
Pakistan	USD	1.43
Other Countries		
USA	USD	48.95
Australia	USD	23.07
South Africa	USD	9.37
UK	USD	12.62
Russian Federation	USD	5.58
Brazil	USD	5.75
Indonesia	USD	3.13
Egypt	USD	1.65
