

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1295
ANSWERED ON 30th JULY, 2026**

VALIDITY OF TELECOM RECHARGE CYCLE

1295 SHRI CHANDRAKANT DAMODAR HANDORE:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance of unfair financial burden imposed on prepaid consumers due to the 28-day recharge cycle, which effectively forces users to make 13 recharges a year instead of 12;
- (b) the specific methodology and commercial criteria utilized by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) to arrive at the 28-day framework for incoming and outgoing services;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure compliance with TRAI's directive mandating that operators prominently offer and market 30-day/calendar-month validity options; and
- (d) whether the Ministry plans to regulate the sudden discontinuation of vital incoming services upon plan expiry?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 empowers the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to notify the rates of telecommunication services. As per the existing tariff framework, tariff for mobile and data services is under forbearance, except for services such as national roaming, rural fixed line services, mobile number portability and leased circuits. 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 other commercial considerations. Competition exists in the market and the policies of the government and regulatory framework notified by TRAI has resulted in India having one of the lowest tariffs for subscribers of mobile services.

TRAI has already mandated vide Telecom Tariff Order, 1999 (66 th and 67 th Amendment) 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. In addition, 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 that month.

As per TRAI, presently, in compliance of above provisions, all telecom service providers are offering 30-days and monthly packs to the consumers.

(d) As per the existing regulatory framework, there is no specific regulatory mandate for continuation of incoming services after the expiry of recharge validity. However, in a competitive market, the Telecom Service Provider are offering continuation of incoming calls and SMS after recharge voucher duration, as per their respective terms & conditions.
