GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2108
ANSWERED ON 06th AUGUST, 2026

IMPACT OF TELECOM TARIFF HIKES

2108 SHRI CHANDRAKANT DAMODAR HANDORE:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been conducted on the financial impact of continuous 12 per cent to 15 per cent mobile tariff hikes on low-income and rural consumers;

(b) the specific legislative interventions being considered to protect consumers from unchecked pricing under the "tariff forbearance" system;

(c) whether despite these rising costs, instances of call drops, weak signals and internet slowdowns have drastically increased across the country; and

(d) the total financial penalties imposed by TRAI on non-compliant operators during the last two years under the Quality of Service Regulations for failing to meet connectivity benchmarks?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b) 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.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) notified the **Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations, 2024** on 2nd August 2024, effective from 1st October 2024, prescribing benchmarks for wireline and wireless access and broadband services. TRAI monitors service providers through License Service Area (LSA)-wise Performance Monitoring Reports (PMRs) and imposes financial disincentives for non-compliance after due examination. TRAI also conducts Independent Drive Tests (IDT) and Operator Assisted Drive Tests (OADT) to assess mobile network performance.

As per the PMRs for **May 2026**, all service providers met the prescribed benchmarks for network-related wireless access QoS parameters. While minimum rollout obligations under the Unified License ensure limited coverage requirements, expansion beyond these obligations depends on service providers' commercial decisions.

(d) Details of financial disincentives imposed by TRAI for non- compliance of provision of QoS Regulations in respect of access service (wireless) is as follows:

(In Rupees)

S.No.	**TSP**	**FY 2024-25**	**FY 2025-26**
1	Airtel	2,00,000	48,00,000
2.	BSNL	5,00,000	57,50,000
3.	MTNL	-	37,00,000
4.	RJIL	-	17,00,000
5.	VII	-	31,00,000
Total		7,00,000	1,90,50,000

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