

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5365  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2018**

**TARIFF FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

5365. SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the tariff for various telecommunication services in the country are higher in comparison to other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the present pulse rates of the various telecommunication services of United States, Australia and our neighbouring countries i.e. China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka separately; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reduce the tariff rates of various telecommunication services in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) & (b) As per the present tariff framework in the country, the tariff for telecommunication services is under forbearance except for national roaming, rural fixed line services and leased circuits. TSPs have the flexibility to offer different tariff plans/schemes depending on the market conditions and other commercial considerations. The tariff applicable for various telecommunication services consists of upfront charges for the plan/scheme, fixed recurring charges and usages charges of various types. The total charge to be paid by the consumer for a service varies amongst different service providers with same service area and same service provider in different service areas. It is therefore difficult to compare the tariff levels prevailing in different parts of the country or between different countries. The tariff level in India is generally considered to be amongst the lowest in the world.

The tariff plans are of bundled nature and the trade-off is generally between monthly fixed charges and variable (call) charges. Therefore, average outgo per outgoing minute for usage would be a realistic indicator of average tariff. In similar manner the average outgo per GB of data can be considered as a realistic indicator of data tariff. The average outgo for both voice and data services in India have shown continuous downward trend, particularly in the recent past. Details are shown in the Table below.

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**Average outgo for Voice and Data**

<b>Quarter Ending</b>	<b>Average outgo per minute (voice) (Rs.)</b>	<b>Average outgo per GB data (Rs.)</b>
Jun-16	0.49	205
Sep-16	0.48	184
Dec-16	0.44	164
Mar-17	0.31	19
Jun-17	0.27	17
Sep-17	0.23	21
Dec-17	0.19	19

(c) Present pulse rate of other countries is not available in TRAI. Some information available on the websites of certain operators in these countries is as under:

<u>Operator</u>	<u>Pulse rate</u>
Vodafone Australia	60 sec pulse rate
Virgin Australia	30 sec pulse rate
Banglalink Bangladesh	10 sec pulse rate
Warid Pakistan	30 sec pulse rate
Mobitel Srilanka	60 sec pulse rate

(d) As indicated in para (a) and (b) the tariff is under forbearance and is decided by market forces. The rate for voice and services in India is showing continuously downward trend and no further steps are under consideration of TRAI presently.

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