

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4706
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH MARCH, 2023**

REGULARISING TELECOM TARIFFS

4706. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any role in regularising telecommunications tariffs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has noticed that the price of prepaid mobile connections have increased more than 20% by the private companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is aware of such huge hikes; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the response of the Government thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The rates at which telecommunication services within India and outside India shall be provided are regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) as per section 11 (2) of TRAI Act, 1997. The existing tariff framework for telecommunication access service is under forbearance, except for services such as National Roaming and Rural Fixed Line Services, mobile number portability charges and leased circuits. 'Nil' tariff has been prescribed to make USSD services exempt to promote financial inclusion among rural unbanked feature phone users. Subject to compliance to extant regulatory provisions, service providers are free to design and offer tariff based on their understanding of the market situation and in their best commercial interest.

(c) to (f) The Telecommunications Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 (modified from time to time), inter alia, mandates 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.
