

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1459
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2024**

REGULATION OF TARIFF RATES IN TELECOM SECTOR

1459 SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any specific provision to regulate tariff rates by telecom companies and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any data regarding the data breach of customers by the companies, telecom or otherwise during the last ten years and if so, the details thereof, yearwise; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action against such companies involved in data breaches and data selling during the said period and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is an independent authority for regulation of tariff for telecommunication services in India. As per the extant regulatory tariff provisions, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance. However, tariffs for services such as National Roaming, Rural Fixed Line Services, mobile number portability charges and leased circuits are regulated by TRAI. Tariff for USSD services is zero to promote financial inclusion among rural unbanked feature phone users.
- (b) & (c) For the FY 2023-2024, two incidents have been reported and for FY 2024-2025, five incidents have been reported. The cause of data breach has not been established in the said instances. Hence, no action was taken on the service providers. The details are **annexed**.

ANNEXURE

Date of reporting	Brief
23.12.2023	Reports indicated that threat actor "perell" has shared a post regarding probable data leak pertaining to "BSNL".
23.01.2024	CERT-In reported that a threat actor named CyboDevil posted a promotion on an underground forum, offering a comprehensive Indian Mobile Network Consumer Database for sale.
20.05.2024	CERT-In has reported that a threat actor alias "Kiberphant0m" has gained unauthorized root super-access to the servers under BSNL control.
05.07.2024	On X platform @digitaldutta posted that Airtel data is on sale and has been hacked by Chinese threat actors.
06.07.2024	NCIIPC reported that VPN access to the network of TRAI is being sold on an exploits forum.
09.07.2024	NCIIPC reported that PII data of Tata Tele subscribers on sale at darknet.
19.07.2024	NCIIPC, based on inputs from credible sources revealed that 2 TB+ data of Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) have been stolen by threat actors.
