

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2024**

INCREASING MOBILE PHONE CALLING RATES

†2676 SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mobile phone calling rates are increasing day-by-day;
- (b) whether it is a fact that mobile phone has made its reach to every village, household, children, youth and the senior citizens whereas mobile companies sell their SIM Cards making free offer for the first two to three months and later on they have to make expensive recharge for the same, even the services for SIM is discontinued:
- (c) whether it is a fact that benefits are extended to beneficiaries for welfare schemes through mobile number but due to expensive recharges subscribers are forced to seek a new mobile SIM and change their mobile numbers instead of recharging, as a result they are deprived of those schemes;
- (d) whether the Government is chalking out any scheme to make calling charges affordable by the mobile companies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The tariffs have been hiked recently by M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd. (BAL), M/s Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. (RJIL) and M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL). As per the existing regulatory tariff framework, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance except for services such as National Roaming, Rural Fixed Line Services, mobile number portability charges, and leased circuits. 'Nil' tariff has been prescribed for USSD services to promote financial inclusion among rural unbanked feature phone users. It may further be mentioned that the Indian telecom tariffs are amongst the lowest in the world including in India's neighbourhood.
