

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2721
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH DECEMBER, 2024**

TARIFF HIKES IN VARIOUS TELECOM SERVICES

2721. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there have been tariff hikes in various telecom services during the last few months, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that these hikes have resulted in a significant number of people being unable to afford recharge services, thereby losing access to basic communication facilities;
- (c) the total number of subscribers for major telecom companies such as Jio, Airtel, and Vodafone-Idea before and after the tariff hikes, and the percentage decline, if any, in their user base;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that common people, especially those in rural and economically weaker sections, do not suffer due to unaffordable telecom tariffs;
- (e) the role of BSNL playing in providing affordable and accessible telecom services amidst these tariff hikes; and
- (f) whether there is any proposal to strengthen BSNL's presence and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Yes, in the recent past three private telecom service providers (TSPs) had increased the tariff. The increase in tariff by these TSPs Bharti Airtel Limited (BAL), Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL), Vodafone Idea Limited was in the range of 11% to 25%. The details of the hike in their tariff plans are given at **Annexure -I**.

In 2004, after determining the presence of adequate competition in the telecom services market, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) adopted the policy of tariff forbearance for mobile telecom services, which is in line with many other countries of the world. It implies that the TSPs are free to fix tariff for telecommunication services in a competitive market based on the market forces of demand and supply.

The total number of subscribers for major TSPs before and after the tariff hike is given at **Annexure -II**.

It may further be mentioned that the Indian telecom tariffs are amongst the lowest in the world and in India's neighborhood as per ITU data, which is given at **Annexure -III**.

(e) BSNL is being entrusted with ambitious project of Government of India for covering uncovered villages and difficult terrains in India under 4G Saturation, Border Out Posts/ Border Intelligence Posts (BOP/BiP) and Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) project to reach the remotely and sparsely populated Citizens. The deployed infrastructure can be upgraded for use of 5G capabilities.

(f) Yes, Government had extended its support to BSNL for upgrading its infrastructure and competing with private operators. The support provided by Government to BSNL is given at Annexure -IV.

Annexure -I

Tariffs of M/s RJIL

S. No.	Tariffs w.e.f. 1st December 2021	Validity (in days)	Tariffs w.e.f. 03rd July 2024	Tariff hike (%)
1	155	28	189	22%
2	179	24	-	-
3	239	28	299	25%
4	299	28	349	17%
5	479	56	579	21%
6	533	56	629	18%
7	395	84	479	21%
8	666	84	799	20%
9	719	84	859	19%
10	1559	336	1899	22%

Tariffs of M/s VIL

S. No.	Tariffs w.e.f. 1st December 2021	Validity (in days)	Tariffs w.e.f. 4th July 2024	Tariff hike (%)
1	179	28	199	11%
2	269	28	299	11%
3	299	28	349	17%
4	359	28	-	-
5	479	56	579	21%
6	539	56	649	20%
7	459	84	509	11%
8	719	84	859	19%
9	839	84	979	17%
10	1799	365	1999	11%
11	2899	365	3499	21%

Tariffs of M/s BAL

S. No.	Tariffs w.e.f. 1st December 2021	Validity (in days)	Tariffs w.e.f. 03rd July 2024	Tariff hike (%)
1	179	28	199	11%
2	265	28	299	13%
3	299	28	349	17%
4	359	28	409	14%
5	479	56	579	21%
6	549	56	649	18%
7	455	84	509	12%
8	719	84	859	19%
9	839	84	979	17%
10	1799	365	1999	11%
11	2999	365	3599	20%

Annexure -II

Service Provider	Subscriber base (millions)			Rate of Growth (%)
	Jun-24	Sep-24	Net Additions	
Reliance Jio	489.72	478.78	-10.94	-2.23%
Bharti Airtel	398.07	392.80	-5.27	-1.32%
Vodafone Idea Ltd	218.12	213.32	-4.80	-2.20%

Annexure-III

Nation	Measure names	Measure values
India and Neighbouring nations		
China	USD	8.84
Afghanistan	USD	4.77
Bhutan	USD	4.62
Bangladesh	USD	3.24
Nepal (Republic of)	USD	2.75
India	USD	1.89
Pakistan	USD	1.39
Other countries		
USA	USD	49
Canada	USD	34.21
Australia	USD	20.05
Russia	USD	6.55
UK	USD	12.62
France	USD	21.77
Germany	USD	14.14
Netherlands	USD	16.87
Sweden	USD	18.91
Brazil	USD	6.06
Argentina	USD	19.61
Indonesia	USD	3.29
Turkiye	USD	4.8
Kenya	USD	4.72
Algeria	USD	7.37
Japan	USD	40.56
Singapore	USD	11.2

Annexure-IV

Year	Support (Amount in Rs.)
2019	Rs. 69,000 Crores
2022	Rs. 1.64 Lakh Crores
2023	Rs. 89,000 Crores
