

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 423
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

TELEPHONE AND MOBILE CHARGES ON MINIMUM AMOUNT

423 MD ABU TAHER KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is thinking about keeping the minimum amount of telephone bill or mobile recharge as a surprising phenomenon has been observed in the past few years where the minimum recharge has been made mandatory to keep the mobile number active for few mobile operators which as a matter of concern as even the poor people have to spend this money constantly to use their mobile number for the bank Account, Aadhaar card, LPG connection and to get many other Government benefits compulsorily;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is aware about this issue and abolish such type of problems and give some relief to poor people?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is mandated by Government of India to regulate the telecom tariff. As per the extant regulatory tariff provisions, tariff for telecommunication service is under forbearance except for services such as National Roaming, Rural Fixed Line Services, USSD services, mobile number portability charges and leased circuits etc. It implies that the Telecom service providers (TSPs) are free to fix tariff for telecommunication services in a competitive market. However, as per the requirements of the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO), the TSPs are obligated to file their tariffs with TRAI within 7 working days of their launch in the market. These tariffs are then examined for their compliance with the regulatory principles which include, inter alia, the principles of transparency, non-predation and non-discrimination.
