

1-7/2003-CN (Pt)

Dated: March 18, 2004

To:

Dy. Director General (LR),
Department of Telecommunications (DoT),
Sanchar Bhawan,
Ashoka Road,
New Delhi – 110 001.

Subject: Recommendation for allowing ISPs to lay copper cable in last mile.

TRAI had received representations from ISPs regarding problems faced by them in obtaining last mile linkage from BSOs for providing high-speed Internet access making use of DSL technology.

2. For provisioning of high-speed Internet Access, one of the most popular technologies is DSL for which ISPs need to obtain copper loop from the incumbent operators and other BSOs.
3. Clause 7.2 of schedule 'C' of ISP Licence Agreement allows ISPs to establish their own last mile on copper cable with the permission of DoT in case of non-availability of such capacities from BSOs. This involves a difficult and time consuming process, which delays the provision of high speed Internet service by ISPs to their customers.
4. Clause 7.5 of schedule 'C' of ISP Licence Agreement allows ISPs to freely use Optic fiber and Radio in the last mile but does not mention copper cable explicitly. This limitation restricts the technology options available with ISPs for the provision of high speed Internet.
5. In order to provide an impetus to the growth of high-speed Internet access and make ISP Licence technology-neutral as far as last mile access is concerned, it is recommended that ISPs should be allowed to use any media (including fiber, radio and copper cable), for establishing their own last mile to their customers. The ISP Licence may therefore be amended accordingly.
6. This issues with the approval of the Authority.

Yours faithfully,

(S.N. Gupta)
Advisor (CN)