

Set of recommendations for TRAI on Data Centre Policy

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY), Government of India in 2020 released the 'Draft Data Centre Policy' laid down the policy framework for the sector including various structural / regulatory interventions, investment promotion, possible incentivization mechanisms along with the institutional mechanism required for the governance. To devise the 'National Data Centre Policy', MeiTY has been interacting with key stakeholders representing the Data Centres Industry represented by Confederation of Indian Industry and various other industry associations to facilitate the development of Data centres in the country.

All stakeholders of the Data Centre Industry have provided MeiTY with their inputs on the Data Centre Policy and have scheduled a meeting for further deliberations on the same. The dialogue is expected to continue, followed by comprehensive feedback by the stakeholders in the coming terms.

With this background, CII would like to place the below recommendations –

1. Reconsider any new regulations on datacentres, since the data stored in DCs and network connecting to datacentres is already being regulated through Data protection bill and Network is being regulated by Department of Telecommunications.
2. The stakeholders of DCs would like to continue their ongoing deliberations with MeiTY on formalization of the central Data Centre policy. A parallel activity on the same lines by TRAI would create confusion as regards interpretations for MeiTY's existing policy ecosystem.
3. TRAI could place thrust on policies related to telecom infrastructure - which is crucial for growth of the data centres, which includes policy on dark fibre between data centres. It is recommended that the data centres should be allowed to lay their own dark fibre and provide it to their customers inside their data centres.
4. The Department of Telecommunication could clarify to all licensed telecom service providers that they can provide connectivity between data centres to non-licensed enterprises by providing dark fibre terminated on router/switches of non-licensed enterprise entities at both ends.