TRAI Releases Network congestion report for the CMSPs for the month of August 2005

In a multi operator environment, the issue of efficient and adequate interconnection between operators has become very important. TRAI has been monitoring the provision of interconnection between various operators. The result of the monitoring reveals that in a number of areas, the degree of congestion between the operators is alarming. As per the QoS Regulation issued in July 2005, the benchmark for the inter network congestion level for an acceptable Quality of Service is less than 0.5%

In a number of cities, the level of congestion between the networks of private operators and the BSNL network is far more than this benchmark and the number of such places are increasing.

In the month of July 2005, there were about 86 places having congestion level of more than 10% i.e. twenty times worse than the benchmark. Whereas, in August 2005, the number of such places has increased to 122. Taking into account of the congestion report of M/s Tata Tele services, this figure further increased to 153. The worst affected locations where Congestion level on point of interconnections (POI) between Private Operators and BSNL is more than 40%, are listed below:

Bharti	Hutch	Idea	Aircel, Chennai	Reliance Inf.	Tata Tele.
Patna (51.10%) Darbhanga(46.62%) Bhadra(42.83%) Palanpur(94.81%) Mehasana(84.76%) Bhavnagar(79.14%) Surendra Nagar(65.36%) Jammu(84.90%) Solapur(70.88%) Latur(63.25%) Osmanabad(59.15%) Bharatpur(41.98%)	Jalandhar(86.00%) Sikar(42.06%) Asansole(55.00%) Kharagpore(51.00%)	Agra(55.65%) Bijanore(64.02%) BSNL NLD Kerala(44.52%)	BSNL NLD(82.00%)	Patna(69.90%) Jalna(47.53%) Cuttack(46.26%) Azamgarh(79.19%) Lucknow(58.73%)	Jaipur Fix(79.00%) Bidar(52.50%) Sonipat(44.50%) Yamunagar(59.30%) Ambala Fixed NLD(100.00%) Ferozpur(40.79%) Nawashar(70.13%) Chandigarh(75.93%) Patiala(56.82%) Aara(65.70%) Jamshedpur(71.80%) Patna(87.50%)

Jhalawar(90.52%) Kota(74.93%) Sirohi(60.26%) Ooty(41.00%) Lucknow(66.00%) Barabanki(49%) Agra(46.80%) Haldwani(86.30%)					Deharadun Local fixed (45.20%) Moradabad fixed (88.60%) Meerut fixed(94.50%) Varanasi(72.39%) Jabalpur(46.00%)

In Patna, the congestion level of M/S Bharti and Reliance Infocom with Level I Tax has further worsen to 51.10 % and 69.90 % respectively as compared to 35.40 % and 61.57 % respectively in the month of July 2005. In Agra, the congestion level of major private operator viz. Bharti and Idea with BSNL TAX is 46.80 % and 55.65 % as compared to 56.90% and 48.37% respectively in the month of July 2005. Similarly, in Lucknow, the congestion level of Bharti, Reliance and Hutch with BSNL Tax is 66.00 %, 58.73 % and 26 % respectively as compared to 71.81%, 54.20 % and 19 % respectively in the previous month. In case of M/s Tata, the congestion level at locations Jaipur, Bidar, Yamunanagar , Ambala, Chandigarh, Patiala, Aarah, Patna, Moradabad, Meerut,and Varansi is 79 %, 52.50 %, 59.30 %, 100%, 75.93 %, 56.82 %, 65.70 %, 87.50 %, 88.60 %, 94.50 % and 72,39 % respectively.

BSNL, in a number of service areas, is having congestion in its radio network. Against the benchmark of < 2% for the TCH Congestion, the performance has further deteriorated in all the service areas. The figures are ranging from 3 % to 16 % in the service areas of AP, Assam, Bihar, Chennai, Haryana, HP, J&K, Kerala, MP, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu , UP(E) and UP(W).

In case of Reliance Telecom Ltd. also , The Radio Network Congestion has further deteriorated in the service areas of MP, Bihar, Orissa Assam and NE when compared with the previous months figures. The figures in these service areas are ranging from 4.90% to 9.50% .

The congestion in the network is on account of less number of base stations, inadequate spectrum and inadequate junctions between the two networks and this leads to frequent blocking of calls, call drops and poor voice quality, consequently providing poor quality of service to the subscribers. The TRAI has also, issued a direction on 7th June 2005, to all the

service providers " *to provide Interconnection on the request of the interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker* ".

The network congestion report of all CMSPs for the month of August 2005 is placed at TRAI website (www.trai.gov.in) along with a comparison with the previous seven months.

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