



Interconnection TRAI <interconnection.trai@gmail.com>

Sub: Confusion over Interconnection Usage Charges policy in Telecom Sector

1 message

Prince Gogal <princegogal9@gmail.com>

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2nd November 2019

To

The Chairman,
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan Next to Zakir
Hussain College, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (Old
[Minto Road](#)) New Delhi: 110 002

Sub: Confusion over Interconnection Usage
Charges policy in Telecom Sector

Dear Sir,

The underlying basis of the TRAI's regulation on Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) regime was the maximisation of consumer welfare in a sustained manner and adoption of more efficient technologies that are vital for orderly growth of the telecom services sector in India. In other words, customers should have adequate choice, affordable tariffs, and avail good quality of services.

We want to remind you that your good office even rightly stated: "If cost-based domestic termination charge is continued for long, it would hamper the movement of sector towards (1) deployment of more efficient technologies; (2) more innovative and customer-friendly tariff offerings; and in turn, it would be detrimental to the growth of telecom services sector."

Ideally, BAK should have been implemented in September 2017 itself as TRAI was nurturing such an intent from 2012 onward. However, TRAI opted for its introduction in a time-bound manner by giving service providers time to upgrade their network to 4G, although it was not necessary. It also fixed the IUC at 6 paise per minute for the interim till BAK starts (w.e.f 1st January, 2020).

We do not think more time should be given to the telecom operators rather penalty should be levied on the operators if they fail to move to new technologies. In view of the above, we humbly state that IUC regime should be replaced with Bill and Keep regime on the fixed date and more technological facilities may be provided to the consumers across the country.

Look forward to a favourable response.

Yours sincerely

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Cc

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2. Shri (Dr) P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Government of [India, South Block, \(Rajpath\), Raisina Hills, New Delhi-110011](#)