

TO

Shri R.S. Sharma, Chairman, TRAI
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
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Sub: Review of IUC by TRAI

SIR,

Telecom service users have benefitted from introduction of cheap 4G services in past 3 years, which have resulted in drastic lowering of call rates. However call rates could not go below threshold due to imposition of IUC on terminating calls. IUC is a vestige of earlier generation telecom technologies.

However with packet switching introduced by 4G technology meant virtually zero cost for terminating network. When TRAI had decided two years ago that IUC would be phased out from 1st January 2020 then it was with the assumption that all old networks would have time for upgradation to latest 4G technology. 4G technology has been deployed across the world for more than ten years now.

Thus, non-upgradation of network by a telecom operator is a conscious and deliberate choice of the operations. It would be fitting then if cost of such decision of continuing with legacy networks is borne by the operations itself. By no stretch of imagination, customers using 4G technology can be asked to bear the cost and consequences of capital savings by operators running legacy networks.

It amounts to favouring technologically obsolete networks shying away from investment. Continuation of IUC would be a grim throwback to the old days of licence permit Raj where bureaucratic whims could smother innovation and technology.

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