

.O. No. 4-29/CP/410-2/2000-TRAI(Com)
October 20,2000

Dear Shri Ghosh,

Subject: TRAI Recommendations on Provision of Mobile Community Phone Service

I refer to Department of Telecommunications Letter No.842-302/99-VAS dated 25th July, 2000, wherein it was indicated that Govt. is permitting the existing Cellular Operators to provide Mobile Public Telephones in situations of inherent mobility like trains, buses and running Taxis. The TRAI was requested to provide its recommendations on the issue of allowing Cellular Mobile Operators to provide public call services and to specify tariff for such services.

TRAI is of the view that the concept of Mobile Public Telephone facility should not be limited to the context of situations of inherent mobility. TRAI is recommending that the cellular mobile operator should be allowed to offer mobile community services to the public in their licensed area through mobile hand sets. The Service will make available the use of hand set to members of public who do not own a hand set of their own. TRAI decision is taken in the context of the NTP'99 and in the wider public interest for increased access. Availability of affordable and effective communications for all citizens is the ultimate goal of telecom policy. Any attempt to prevent the provision of any particular type of service by an executive order is not desirable unless the provision of such a service is against the terms and conditions of the licence under which the service provider was operating. In this particular case, it cannot be said that the licence agreement prohibits the provision of any type of mobile public service.

TRAI recommends that the users of this service should not be charged a tariff which is more than the airtime charge-plus the appropriate fixed network charge, if the call has travelled over some portion of the fixed network.

Detailed TRAI Recommendations on the subject are enclosed. These recommendations along with the text of this letter are being made public and are also being placed on the TRAI's website today.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(M.S.Verma)

Shri Shyamal Ghosh,
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