



रॉयल यूथ सोशल वेलफेयर सोसायटी



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दिनांक २-१-२०१९

To

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

Respected Sir

This is regarding the recent issue relating to Review of Interconnection Usage Charges, which was levied by Telecom Operators through backdoor.

It is noticed that certain Telecom operators of exploiting their 2G customers by charging "extortionist rates" for voice calls. Initiatives of TRAI to review of call connect charges by Trai "sabotages" the Prime Minister's vision for Digital India, and will hit not only the regulator's credibility but also investor confidence as the move protects vested interests of some old operators.

Continuing its relentless attack on the regulator and operators over the contentious IUC (interconnect usage charge) issue that has polarised the industry and this TRAI's move is arbitrary, bad in law, unwarranted, and anti-poor.

Any change in the implementation of the original timeline of January 1, 2020, will end the free voice regime and is likely to increase tariffs which are against consumer interest.

As you may be aware typically, a telecom operator pays for completing calls made by its subscribers to a rival network. This is done by paying the rival network an interconnect usage charge, which currently is 6 paise per minute.

TRAI's move to reopen the deadline the deadline for ending charges for terminating calls on rival networks beyond January 2020 had forced one operator to levy a 6 paise per minute charge on its users recently, effectively ending its free call regime.

We understand that TRAI's consultation paper is indirectly protects and perpetuates the vested interests of telecom players and not the consumers. The telecom operators are exploiting 2G customers by charging "extortionist rates" for voice calls, which should not have been done. It is unfortunate that instead of proving fruits to the consumers, the TRAI has preference to help companies who earns profits and invests outside the country in telecom and other businesses.

We recommend the TRAI should do away with IUC policy and move to Bill and Keep policy as it decided in 2017. There is no point in giving extension to IUC regime.

Looking forward to a positive response.

With regards



Yours faithfully

आयुक्त सचिव
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Cc

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002