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TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Press Release No. 58 /2010

3rd November, 2010

TRAI Releases Consultation Paper on Revenue Sharing Arrangement for Intelligent Network Services

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New Delhi, 3rd November, 2010- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a consultation paper on “Revenue Sharing Arrangement for Intelligent Network Services”. This consultation paper is available on TRAI’s website www.traigov.in

2. Before the Intelligent Network (IN) Services Regulation was issued, subscribers were able to only access the IN services of their own access service provider. If such a situation was allowed to persist then toll-free numbers of institutions like hospitals would have been available only to the service provider owning the platform. The regulation paved the way for universal access to services like free-phone service. It has, however, been noted that despite being allowed by the IN Services Regulation to do so, some of the service providers could not arrive at mutually agreed revenue share arrangement.

3. In addition, TRAI’s recommendations to allow long distance operators to access consumers directly through calling cards for provision of national and international long distance services were accepted by the Department Of Telecommunications in August 2009 and licence conditions were appropriately modified. This change is aimed at providing consumers choice of long distance service provider and increase competition in this segment. However, no agreement has been filed for the calling card services, by any of the service providers, even after a lapse of more than one year of amendment of licence conditions. Some of the service providers have requested TRAI to prescribe interconnection and commercial arrangement between service providers for calling card services.

4. Through the consultation paper, released today, TRAI aims to seek views of the stakeholders on the issue of sharing of revenue from IN based services among the interconnecting service providers to assist TRAI in arriving at a framework by which interconnecting service providers can be fairly compensated. Comments and counter comments are expected to reach TRAI by 30th November, 2010 and 10th December, 2010 respectively.

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