

Suggestions/written comment of Odisha Consumer's Association on Review of Tariff for National Roaming as requested for on the Consultation Paper No.2/2013 dt.25th Feb, 2013

Before taking decision on the issue, a comprehensive review of existing laws on Licensing, legal, technical and routing issues, should be carried out prior to reviewing tariff for national roaming. Laws to be laid down with clarity & in simplified manner.

For fixing Tariff for National Roaming, TRAI is to take into consideration of the economic Condition, knowledge, educational background etc of the telephone subscribers & more particularly of rural population i.e. 90 % of people of our country and their paying capacity & modus operandi of Service providers to make money within no time adopting all means & manipulative method & also technology at their command taking the advantage of the ignorance, Illiteracy, lack of knowledge about the fast growing technology .A consolidated TTO should be made to avoid confusion & to streamline the same.

Subscribers are faced lot of difficulties/problems in getting service. Out of many a few are stated i.e. charged for miss calls & call drops all lines are busy, not reachable, cross connection, unwanted songs, music, commercial calls massages, advertisements.

American & European Union model for fixing Tariff in our country should not be adopted in our system as ours is big nation of different language / dialect & topography, natural barriers.

The differential tariff for National roaming services should be eliminated all together as without free roaming it would not be possible to create a unified nation which transcends artificial boundaries created by telecom licenses to make undue gain without giving quality & standard of services.

No carriage, termination charges, incremental cost be added for the National Roaming as service providers have Corporate Social Responsibility and not to be allowed to make huge profit adopting different means & method. The subscribers are facing number of problems in getting services & also quality services but are being charged for the same.

The charges for incoming calls while roaming should be abolished as abolition of roaming charges will lead to an increase in the minutes of usage (MOU) and, therefore, the telecom service providers (TSPs)

will not feel any adverse revenue impact. In case of free incoming tariff while roaming is implemented, there will be an increase in call in the beginning which will normalize subsequently due to competition.

The differential tariff for national roaming services should be eliminated altogether as without free roaming it would not be possible to create a unified nation which transcends artificial boundaries created by telecom licenses.

- i) Tariff for national roaming service should be under forbearance.
- ii) The tariff for national roaming service should be the same as that in the home service area.
- iii) The ceiling tariff for national roaming service should be reduced in line with the current costs.
- iv) The tariff for incoming calls while on national roaming should be made zero and the costs should be recovered from the tariff of outgoing calls while national roaming.

Competition in national roaming service in India is robust enough for leaving the tariff for national roaming service under forbearance

The tariff for incoming calls while on national roaming should be made zero and the costs should be recovered from the tariff of outgoing calls while national roaming if necessary.

Law should be made to enforce all aspect of the matter in this regard & consolidated TTO be prepared to avoid confusion & to enforce & implement the same

Response to Issue (VI)

The tariff for video calls while roaming should be left for the market forces to decide. A ceiling for the tariff of video calls while roaming should be set. The tariff for video calls while roaming should be left for the market forces to decide. A ceiling for the tariff of video calls while roaming should be set up as stated.