



## P. S. MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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01.10.2019

To

**Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad**

Hon'ble Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Department of Telecommunications, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashok Road, New Delhi. PIN- 110001, Government of India

Sub: TRAI's Telecommunications Interconnection Usage Charges Regulations, 2017 regarding...

Respected Sir,

As you may be aware that TRAI's Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges Regulations, 2017 dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 brought down wireless to wireless domestic call termination charges to 6 paise per minute w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. This said regulation was proposed to move to Bill and Keep regime from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 for domestic call termination.

It is surprised to understand that TRAI has come out with a new consultation on the above subject titled "Review of Interconnection Usage Charges dated 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 where TRAI has sought views to extend the IUC regime for further one year or so to facilitate few telecom operators who claims that majority of consumers are still on 2G and 3G network. We perceive, in letter and spirit, the same move of the TRAI is against the interests of the consumers and country at large.

We would like to brought to your kind notice that majority of incumbent telecom operators are either in 2G or 3G network though they have maximum 4G spectrum. By remaining in 2G and 3G network, these operators are charging tariffs as high as Rs 1.5/ minute voice call. As understood from various documents, Voda-Idea and Airtel Operators are holding spectrum 1600 MHz each while Reliance Jio has 4G spectrums to the tune of 1100 MHz.

In spite of available of large quantity of 4G spectrum. The incumbent operators have deployed much less number of 4G NodeBs and yet to be migrated to 4G which provide both voice and data usage facility. Majority of operators worldwide have moved to pocket-based switch technology which is efficient and cost effective while the Indian operators are not in



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urgency to upgrade their network / technology and continue to offer 2G / 3G services. As indicates, the incumbent telecom operators are in a mood to charge exorbitant tariffs to consumers by offering more voice services instead of both voice and data with same price or even in less price.

In view of the above we urge upon you to intervene and block the Consultation Process currently made by TRAI on the subject Review of IUC Regulations, 2017 and strictly communicate to adhere to the earlier decision to push towards Bill and Keep Regime where call termination charges will be Zero.

The current behaviour of the incumbent telecom operators are certain to derail the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister of *Digital India*. In view of the above we request you to intervene and give adequate instructions to move from IUC regime to Bill and Keep Regime.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely

*U. K. Srivastava*

(Dr U.K Srivastava )

Director

Copy marked to

1. Dr R S Sharma, Chairman, TRAI, Government of India
2. Dr P. K Mishra, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Government of India