

SANKALPA

AT/PO- BAGALPUR, DIST- JAGATSIGHPUR
Odisha, Pin- 754102

Ref No. Sankalpa At/JSME

Date 8/12/14

Letter No. ___/TRAI/12/2014

Dated 8th December, 2014

To

The Chairman,

TRAI,

Government of India,

New Delhi - 110002.

Subject: Inter connection Termination Charges – a pending issue

Dear Sir,

We at would like to bring to your notice that TRAI's decision to reduce the inter connection terminal charges is a long pending issue. Although it has been passed in 2011 and Supreme Court has given its consent, still it has not been implemented by the TRAI.

As it is mentioned in TRAI's policy report, Interconnection involves a linking up of one telecom operator to the infrastructure facilities of another. Interconnections can be considered in terms of network interconnection and access interconnection. The former takes place between operators possessing networks, and the latter between an operator with a network and another without one. Interconnection charges include charges for collecting and delivering calls, for installing, maintaining and operating the points of interconnect, payment for supplementary services (such as directory assistance, fault reporting, network maintenance, or inter-carrier billing), and for ancillary and other facilities (such as space in the equipment room). Furthermore, in several cases, there is also a charge to fund the deficit arising due to the provision of universal service. However, if the funding of such a deficit is covered by the telecom tariff, then it should not be a part of interconnection charges, i.e there is a need to avoid double-counting in this context. In 1999, TRAI suggested for the revenue sharing model and in 2009, it was suggested to reduce the termination charges to Rs.0.20/- per minute. With the intervention of Supreme Court, TRAI in consultation with its stakeholders re-calculated the costs and submitted to the Court. In its report, TRAI mentioned that there is a need for progressive reduction in termination charges in order to facilitate the end users and promised to adopt Bill & Keep mechanism which requires for the removal of the termination charges. But till date, this has not been implemented by the TRAI. In the mean time, the mobile providers' revenue share has been increased two fold whereas the end users are asked to pay more for the service.

In view of the above discussion, we would like to remind TRAI its report to Supreme Court of 2011 for the implementation of Bill & Keep mechanism. The non-implementation of the 2011 reports is affecting the thousands of lakhs of consumers in the country. We are requesting the esteemed institute to act actively in this regard by reducing the inter connection to the minimum or zero paise and oblige.

Thanking You.

Best Regards,

Manash Ranjan Mallick
Secretary
Sankalpa, Bagalpur