INDIA

VISION INDIA SONEPAT

(A National NGO, Registered Under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860)
(Registration Year 1996-1997, Registration No. 252)

To

Dated: 7/12/2014

The Chairman,

Ref.No. 702/TRAI/2014

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan (next to Zakir Hussain College)
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (Old Minto Road) New Delhi: 110 002
Government of India,
New Delhi - 02.

Sub: Request for the observance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order of 2011 on Inter connection charges

Respected Sir,

This has reference to your 2011 commitment for the implementation inter-connection charges. Despite Supreme Court's recommendation for the implementation of Interconnection in 2011, TRAI has not yet implemented the same. Inter-connection is a key to a competitive market. Emphasizing efficiency in the end-user market implies that it should also be an important concern for interconnection. Otherwise, the operators requiring interconnection would not be able to operate efficiently. A need to encourage efficiency in interconnection implies that interconnection charges should be based on costs. Cost based interconnection charges should incorporate a normal commercial return, and there should not be any discrimination among different operators, unless a cost-difference justifies dissimilar treatment.

In its 2009 recommendations, TRAI had fixed a mobile termination charge at Rs.0.20 per minute for all local and national long distance charges. It had also raised the mobile termination charge for incoming international calls to Rs.0.40 per minute from Rs.0.30, while putting a ceiling on carriage fee of Rs.0.65/- per minute for domestic long distance calls. According to industry sources, about 15-20 per cent the operators' revenue comes from termination charges at present. Further, the regulator has, in May 2013, issued new norms imposing five paise as termination charge on each transactional short message service (SMS) and two paise on each normal SMS on operators from whose networks the message originates. The new regulation - Short Message Services (SMS) Termination Charges Regulations, 2013 - has come to effect in June, 2013. Before this, the termination charge on SMS was under forbearance.

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Amit Kumar

Because of TRAI's non-activeness, the end users are suffering and the big giants like Bharti, Vodafone and Idea Cellular are hovering a maximum profit as terminal charges.

According to some industry estimates, bigger telcos were earning about Rs.20 crore per annum from terminal charges for SMS. If the new guide lines come into effect, they are scared that their revenue will be reduced to Rs.10 crore. In the entire process, the mobile users or end users are the net sufferer. It is our sincere request to the esteemed TRAI to regulate the latest revision rates by adhering to the directions of Supreme Court directions of 2011.

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Amrit Kaur

Thanking you.

With best regards