

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

“Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund (Fourth Amendment) Regulation, 2018”

New Delhi, 18th July, 2018: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today notified Telecommunication **Consumers Education and Protection Fund (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2018**. The Regulation is available on TRAI website at <http://www.trai.gov.in/release-publication/regulation>.

2. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had notified the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund Regulations, 2007 (6 of 2007) on 15.06.2007. In terms of the Regulations, a fund titled “Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund” (TCEPF) has been created. Any amount charged in excess of the notified rates by telecom service providers, which they are not able to refund to the concerned subscribers, are credited into the fund. The income from the Fund is utilized to undertake programmes and activities relating to consumer education and protection as are approved by the Authority based on the recommendations of a committee namely ‘Committee for Utilization of Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund (CUTCEF) headed by Secretary, TRAI.

3. The current CUTCEF composition includes five members from service providers’ Associations including two members from the ‘Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI)’. As AUSPI has now ceased to exist, its name is required to be deleted from the CUTCEF composition. The composition of CUTCEF has accordingly been modified through the Amendment.

4. Further suitable changes in the provisions relating to timelines for submission of annual budget estimates (for ensuing Financial year) for approval of the Authority have been effected through the amendment so that details of expenditure incurred from the fund on various consumer centric



activities in the ongoing Financial Year are available for consideration by the Authority. Consequential changes due to reorganization of some Divisions in TRAI have also been effected through the amendment.

The rationale for the changes made has been fully explained in the 'Explanatory Memorandum' to the Amendment.

6. Prior to the present notification of the TCEPF (Fourth Amendment) regulation 2018, the regulation in draft form had been placed on TRAI website on 27.06.2018 for stakeholders comments. Last date for receipt of comments was 10.07.2018. In the comments received from the stakeholders, they concurred with the proposed amendments in the Regulation. Accordingly, the amended Regulation has been notified today.

7. In case of any clarifications, Shri Sanjeev Banzal, Advisor (IT &CA), TRAI may be contacted at Telephone: 011-23210990 or email ID: advisorit@trai.gov.in .


(S.K. GUPTA)
Secretary (TRAI)

8/07/2018