

Information note to the Press (Press Release No. 75/ 2019)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

**TRAI issues Consultation Paper on
“Review of Interconnection Usage Charges”**

New Delhi, 18.09.2019 - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges”.

1. Interconnection between two public telecommunication networks allows consumers of one service provider to communicate with consumers of the other service provider. The principle regulation for Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) of voice calls was notified by the Authority in the year 2003. In respect of domestic calls termination charge, the last amendment to the IUC Regulation was carried out in the year 2017. The Regulation of 2017 brought down wireless to wireless domestic call termination charge to Rs. 0.06 per minute, effective from 1/10/2017 to 31/12/2019. It further prescribed Bill And Keep (BAK) regime i.e. zero termination charge, effective from 1/1/2020 for domestic wireless to wireless call termination.

2. While notifying the last amendment, the Authority noted that it shall keep a close watch on the developments in the sector particularly with respect to the adoption of new technologies and their impact on termination costs. The Authority, also noted that, if it deems necessary, may revisit the scheme for termination charge applicable on wireless to wireless calls after one year from the date of implementation of the Regulations.

3. In view of the above, the Authority has been closely monitoring the adoption of new technologies and imbalance in the inter-operator off-net




traffic over a period of last two years. From time to time, during the last two years, the Authority collected the data relating to inter-operator off-net traffic and technology-wise call volume handled, from operators. The analysis of this data indicates that while the adoption of new technologies by service providers and customers is progressing, a large number of customers are still served by circuit switched networks for handling of voice calls. Further, though the imbalance in the inter-operator off-net traffic is reducing over a period, it still exists.

4. In this background, the present Consultation Paper (CP) embarks on the review of the date of applicability of BAK regime in respect of wireless to wireless terminating calls.

5. The Consultation Paper has been placed on TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in. Written comments on the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 18.10.2019 and counter-comments, if any, by 1.11.2019.

6. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form at sksinghal@trai.gov.in with a copy to interconnection.trai@gmail.com. For any clarification/information, Shri S.K.Singhal, Advisor (BB&PA) may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23221509.


(S.K. Gupta)
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Secretary, TRAI