

No.101-17/2003-MN (Pt.IV)

Dated: December 31, 2003

To

All Operators

Subject: Direction under Section 13 of the TRAI ACT 1997 (as amended by TRAI Amendment Act 2000) regarding disconnection of POIs on account of settlement related disputes.

1. Instances have been brought to the notice of the Authority that some of the operators have resorted to disconnection of the POIs due to the reason of non-settlement of IUC payments and also for some other reasons.

2. Disconnection of POIs is not desirable in view of the inconvenience caused to the subscribers of the networks of both the interconnecting operators. The dispute between two operators in the matter should be resolved through mutual agreement. In case of failure in arriving at mutual agreement, the operator who wishes to disconnect the POIs should give a notice for disconnection of POI with a suitable time period (not less than ten days) and a copy of the same should be given to TRAI. In case TRAI does not intervene within the stipulated time period specified in the show cause notice for disconnection of POI, the operator concerned can go ahead with the disconnection of the POI. Alternatively, the interconnecting operator may approach TRAI with full information about the dispute for determination in the matter.

3. The Authority in exercise of its power conferred upon it under Section 13 read with Section 11(1)(b) of the TRAI Act, in the general consumer interest directs all service providers not to terminate the interconnection arrangements or resort to disconnection of POIs and resolve the dispute through mutual agreement failing which they should adopt the procedure as given in para 2 above.

4. This issues with the approval of the Authority.

(R.K.Bhatnagar)
Advisor (MN)