



Interconnection TRAI &lt;interconnection.trai@gmail.com&gt;

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## Review of Interconnection Usage Charges, 2017

1 message

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**Neeraj Rawat** <neerajrawat78@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 4, 2019 at 3:28 PM

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(no subject)



Tushar Pant

to me

0 minutes ago

[Details](#)

1st November, 2019

To

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad

Hon'ble Minister for Electronics, Telecommunications &amp; IT

Sanchar Bhawan, [20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001](#)

Sub: Review of Interconnection Usage Charges, 2017

Respected Sir,

This is with regard to the recent consultation paper issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to Review the Interconnection Usage Charges Resolution, 2017.

As you are aware Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) is the charge the operator of a network on which a call originates pays to the network where the call terminates. For example, when an Idea subscriber makes a call (originator) to an Airtel subscriber (receiver) Idea will have to pay IUC charges to Airtel for hosting the call.

In 2017, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had notified that IUC would go by January 2020 only to retract on its stand earlier last month by issuing a fresh consultation paper on the issue throwing the telecom sector into a turmoil. It is puzzling that TRAI wants to revisit IUC when its 2017 explanatory memorandum so clearly enunciated why this anti-consumer charge should go.

Four reasons spring up when one reads the explanatory memorandum which can be accessed.

We understand the processes fixed during the implementation of IUC policy is outdated. IUC is associated with old telecom technology. It has been outpaced by rapid modernisation and technology evolution in the sector.

As the TRAI paper says, by 2017, all major service providers in India had either committed to internet protocol (IP)-based LTE (4G) networks or had declared plans of doing so in the future. Thus, voice calls provided using IP-based technology would be the most efficient mode of delivery by any available parameter - be it cost, quality or efficiency of delivery.

Since IP based networks are poised to be the networks of the future for providing telecom services, a Bill and Keep method (BAK) regime should be seen as a natural facilitator for the development of technology.

Accordingly, TRAI said that if IUC system continues for long it would delay the deployment of more efficient technologies; and more innovative and customer friendly tariff offerings. That, in turn, will hurt the growth of the telecommunication services sector, the explanatory memorandum indicated.

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In view of the above, we humbly request your good-self to intervene in the issue and take appropriate decisions which will benefit the consumers to get faster technology at a cheaper price. If the government continues with the IUC regime, we are sure this will affect the noble vision of the Government i.e., Digital India.

We are hopeful that you will opt for appropriate policies to protect the interests of the millions of consumers in the country.

With regards

Yours Sincerely

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Cc to

Dr P. K Mishra, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Ministers Office, South Block, New Delhi-110001  
The Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan next to Zakir Hussain College,  
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, New Delhi, Delhi 110002

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