

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
Information note to the Press (Press Release No.23/2020)

**TRAI issues “The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges
(Sixteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2020”**

New Delhi, 17th April, 2020: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued “The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Sixteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2020” which revise the present regime of fixed International Termination Charges (ITC) @ Re.0.30 per minute to forbearance regime within a prescribed range of Re. 0.35 per minute to Re. 0.65 per minute. To ensure the level playing field between standalone and integrated International Long-Distance Operators (ILDOS), the Authority is mandating that an Access Service provider shall offer the non-discriminatory rate of ITC to everyone i.e. to its own associated ILDO as well as to standalone ILDOs.

2. International termination charge (ITC) is the charge payable by an Indian (ILDO), who carries the call from outside the country, to the access provider in the country in whose network the call terminates.

3. The prevailing IUC Regulation in respect of the termination charge for international incoming call was notified on 12th January, 2018 and came into effect from 1st February, 2018. This amendment revised the termination charge for international incoming call to wireline and wireless networks to Rs.0.30 per minute w.e.f. 01.02.2018.

4. While notifying the last amendment, the Authority noted that it shall closely monitor the trends and patterns of International Long Distance (ILD)



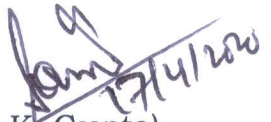
voice traffic in the country. The Authority, also noted that, if it deems necessary, may review International Termination Charge (ITC) from time to time. The Authority had been continuously monitoring the developments in the telecommunications market, and trends in incoming and outgoing ILD voice traffic volume.

5. In view of the above, TRAI issued a Consultation Paper (CP) for Review of Interconnection Usage charges on 08.11.2019 to seek the views of stakeholders. Stakeholders were asked to submit written comments by 09.12.2019 and counter-comments by 23.12.2019. The comments and the counter-comments received from the stakeholders were placed on the TRAI's website. An Open House Discussion was held on 03.02.2020 at New Delhi to discuss the issues with all stakeholders.

6. On the basis of comments received from stakeholders in writing and during the open house discussion, and its own analysis, the Authority has prescribed through these Regulations that the rate of ITC shall be kept under forbearance within a prescribed range of Re. 0.35 per minute to Re. 0.65 per minute. The objects and the reasons for the amendments in the Regulations are given in the Explanatory Memorandum annexed to the Regulations.

6. Full text of "The Telecommunication Usage Charges (Sixteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2020" alongwith the Explanatory Memorandum are available on TRAI's website: www.trai.gov.in

7. For any information/clarification Sh. S. K. Singhal, Advisor (BB&PA) may be contacted at Tel. No. 011-23221509.


(S.K. Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI