

Information note to the Press (Press Release no. 75/2015)

For Immediate Release

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Consultation process on Differential Pricing for Data Services.

New Delhi, the 31st December, 2015: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a Consultation Paper on 'Differential Pricing for Data Services' on 09.12.2015 inviting written comments from stakeholders by 30.12.2015 and counter comments, if any, by 07.01.2016. The last date for submission of comments and counter comments was extended up to 07.01.2016 and 14.01.2016, respectively.

2. The consultation paper had sought comments of stakeholders on the following specific questions:

Question 1: Should the TSPs be allowed to have differential pricing for data usage for accessing different websites, applications or platforms?

Question 2: If differential pricing for data usage is permitted, what measures should be adopted to ensure that the principles of nondiscrimination, transparency, affordable internet access, competition and market entry and innovation are addressed?

Question 3: Are there alternative methods/technologies/business models, other than differentiated tariff plans, available to achieve the objective of providing free internet access to the consumers? If yes, please suggest/describe these methods/technologies/business models. Also, describe the potential benefits and disadvantages associated with such methods/technologies/business models?

Question-4: Is there any other issue that should be considered in the present consultation on differential pricing for data services?

3. TRAI has so far received more than 18 lakhs responses from the stakeholders. The Authority appreciates the massive participation of stakeholders in the consultation process. The consultation paper on 'Differential Pricing for Data Services' including the specific questions did not mention any specific product/ service. However, preliminary scrutiny of the responses received shows that approximately 14.34 lakh responses (78.49% of the total responses) convey support for a specific product without answering the questions put up for consultation.

4. The Authority requests such stakeholders to provide comments on the specific questions raised in the consultation paper with justifications so as to facilitate it to formulate appropriate Policy guidelines on differential pricing for data services.

5. The comments may be sent preferably in the electronic form to Ms. Vinod Kotwal, Advisor (F&EA), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, New Delhi – 110 002, (Fax: +91-11-23236650) on the e-mail advisorfea1@trai.gov.in, or advfea1@trai.gov.in by 07.01.2016 and counter comments, if any, by 14.01.2016. Comments/ counter comments received will be posted on the TRAI's website www.trai.gov.in.


(Sudhir Gupta)
Secretary, TRAI