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TRAI Issues Consultation Paper on “Issues arising out of Provisioning and Pricing of Services by Mobile Service Providers – in the context of Delivery of Basic Financial Services using Mobile Phones”

New Delhi, 25th January, 2011 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued a consultation paper on “Issues arising out of Provisioning and Pricing of Services by Mobile Service Providers – in the context of Delivery of Basic Financial Services using Mobile Phones”

Despite the expansion of the banking network during the last four decades, a sizeable proportion of the households, especially in rural areas, do not have a bank account. There exist significant sections of unbanked population and regions in India. The fast growing roll-out of mobile services into these areas is seen as a medium to deliver basic financial services to this segment of population. An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted by the Government of India has prepared a framework for the delivery of basic financial services using mobile phones. This framework entrust TRAI with the task of resolving all issues arising out of the provisioning and pricing of such services by the Mobile Service Providers. In order to identify and address the various issues related to the provisioning and pricing of delivery of financial service using mobile phone, the Authority has issued this consultation paper. Stakeholders are requested to send their comments preferably in electronic form by 14th February, 2011 on e-mail ID raj.pal@nic.in or eco@traf.gov.in. These comments would be hosted on the TRAI website and counter comments, if any, may be given by 28th February, 2011. This consultation paper is available on TRAI’s website www.traf.gov.in.

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