

“Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services, Regulations, 2016” on 8th Feb, 2016, which *inter-alia*, prohibits any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content.

**Policy to permit and support digital mobile payments**

595. SHRI DEREK O’ BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering regulation or a national policy to permit and support digital mobile payments in India; and

(b) if so, the expected completion date for such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued Operative Guidelines for Mobile Banking Transactions in India. The mobile banking guidelines issued by RBI are applicable to all Scheduled Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)/Urban Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/District Central Co-operative Banks.

In order to facilitate easy customer registration for Mobile Banking, RBI has issued instructions to all Banks including RRBs/Urban Co-operative Banks/State Co-operative Banks/District Central Co-operative Banks to allow for customer registration through Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) connected to National Financial Switch (NFS) while striving to facilitate registration through other channels including internet banking, Interactive Voice Response System (IVR), phone banking as well and creating awareness for the same among the customers.

Recently, RBI has given in-principle approval to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to set up Unified Payment Interface (UPI) which will enhance customer convenience and inter-operability in mobile banking transactions.

(b) The expected completion date for carrying out necessary changes by all the participating banks in NFS were developing capability of customer registration for mobile banking at all their ATMs was 31st March 2016. Information regarding achieving this target is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**TV white space**

596. SHRI DEREK O’BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether unused/underused TV spectrum or TV ‘white space’ exists in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the future potential of it;
- (c) whether Government has entered into agreements with private organizations or has plans to do so for the utilisation of this spectrum, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has any plan to link this TV white space with the Digital India initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There exists unused TV spectrum in the 470-698 MHz frequency band currently used by Doordarshan for terrestrial television broadcast in the country.

(b) It has been decided that part of the spectrum in the band 470-698 MHz, after coordination with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, will be put to use for International Mobile Telephony (IMT) services, when ecosystem for IMT services is developed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

**Steps taken by Government to reduce call drops**

597. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has carried out tests to ascertain the call drop rate;
- (b) whether there are plans to carry out tests on a pan-India basis, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the rate of call drops;
- (d) whether Government has allowed installation of telecom towers at Government buildings to reduce call drops; and
- (e) the number of such towers installed at Government buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), through agencies appointed by it, has conducted Independent Drive Tests of mobile networks in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Darjeeling and Sikkim, Bhopal, Ranchi, Trivandrum and Ahmedabad during May-June 2016. There is no plan to carry out tests on a pan-India basis. However, TRAI through agencies appointed by it, shall carry out similar Independent Drive Tests, in select cities throughout the country and publish results on its website *www.trai.gov.in* from time to time.