

- (b) the timeline for implementation of recommendations given by TRAI;
- (c) by when the process of amendment of licences of telecoms will be initiated as recommended by TRAI; and
- (d) whether the Department of Telecommunication will put in place a mechanism of public consultations to implement the recommendations of TRAI, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of Net Neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to Internet for all citizens of the country. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted its recommendations on Net Neutrality to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 28th November, 2017 which, *inter-alia*, includes recommendation for amendment in the terms of various license agreements governing the provision of Internet services in India to incorporate the principles of non-discriminatory treatment of content. The recommendations of TRAI are being examined by the Government.

(d) TRAI issued a Consultation Paper on Net Neutrality on 04.01.2017. TRAI conducted a detailed, two-stage, consultation process on Net Neutrality involving comments and counter comments from a variety of stakeholders followed by three open house discussions. After the completion of consultation process, TRAI considered the various points of view and formulated its recommendations on Net Neutrality.

#### **Arriving at regulations after consultations with stakeholders**

4543. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that attempts are being made to discredit TRAI through repeated allegations of bias leveled by a section of the industry, which have hurt TRAI officials;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that regulations have been arrived at only after wide ranging consultations with all stakeholders and thus, there is no question of according favour to any particular operator; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Some of the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the matter of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations on "Violation of provisions of License Agreement and the standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wire line) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services Regulations, 2009 by M/s Bharti Airtel Limited, M/s Vodafone India Limited and M/s Idea Cellular Limited" have submitted to the Department of Telecommunications that TRAI has acted arbitrarily and has overlooked various issues raised by them in various communications to TRAI in the said matter.

(c) and (d) Regulations are notified by TRAI after undertaking detailed consultation with stakeholders as per the provisions of TRAI Act, 1997. This open detailed consultation process generally involves issue of a consultation paper, obtaining written comments and counter comments which are published on TRAI website and holding of Open House Discussion, where any stakeholder can freely participate. TRAI gives extensions of time limit to stakeholders for submitting their comments and counter comments. Opportunity to give additional written comments after Open House discussion is also given to stakeholders. In addition, TRAI carries out an extensive research about the procedures, best practices and evolving Information and Communication Technology (ICT) ecosystem with reference to the subject matter of consultation.

#### **New norms on predatory pricing by TRAI**

4544. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has clarified the new norms on predatory pricing and the Significant Market Players (SMPs) are free to match a price as long as it can justify the same to TRAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some telecom operators, through their industry organisation, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), are trying to discredit TRAI through misleading statements on predatory pricing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government proposes to take against COAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has