

5. And whereas no exception/exemption has been granted for tariff reporting except for bulk customers and in that case too it is compulsory for all service providers to provide details about the number of plans and the bulk customers availing them along with a certification, for information and record of the Authority;
6. And whereas the Authority is in receipt of complaints that some service providers are launching tariffs without filing it with Authority and offering discriminatory tariff to individual customers within the same class;
7. Now, therefore, the Authority, in exercise of powers conferred upon it under section 13 read with section 11(2) and 12(4) of TRAI Act, 1997 and the provisions of the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 and in order to protect the interests of the consumers and for the reasons mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, hereby directs all the Access Service Providers:-

**to ensure that all the tariffs offered to the consumers shall be in accordance with the provisions of Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 and shall not be discriminatory between the subscribers of the same class and to ensure that every tariff that is offered to a customer is invariably reported to the Authority as per reporting framework under the forbearance regime unless an express exemption has been provided in the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 (as amended from time to time).**

Sd/-  
(Kaushal Kishore)  
Advisor (F&EA)

To  
All Telecom Access Providers

#### **Regulation on predatory pricing by TRAI**

4546. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) in the country, after the recent regulation on predatory pricing by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), feel deeply victimized and let down;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with this regulation, an environment of regulation and policy that is not based on an equal footing will further aggravate the deep

financial stress and kill future investments, innovation in an industry that has put India on the global map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) According to some media reports, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has issued statements on predatory pricing, expressing that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has exhibited favoritism. TRAI has refuted the charges.

TRAI follows a transparent process for deciding issues within the existing regulatory framework. It also has a transparent and elaborate consultation process to decide about the new regulatory structure on new issues/changes in regulatory framework. Consultation process includes inviting comments through consultation paper, counter comments, Open House Discussion (OHD) and in house deliberations. The same process has been followed in the said amendment of tariff order.

TRAI had initiated a public consultation on the Regulatory Principles governing the Telecom Tariff in February, 2017.

Further, TRAI conducted research on the subject and also studied the best practices being followed by the sectoral regulators and Competition Regulators in India and abroad.

After pursuing the above consultation process, TRAI notified the Telecommunications Tariff (63rd Amendment) Order, 2018 on 16.02.2018.

(b) and (c) No such views have been received by the Government from Telecom Service Providers.

#### **Refund of security deposits to consumers of BSNL in Ghaziabad**

4547. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL landline connections surrendered in Ghaziabad district (U.P.) in June and July, 2017 along with names of consumers to whom refunds of their security deposits have actually been made;

(b) whether it is a fact that security deposits in respect of majority of consumers, particularly with reference to RE No. 0005910573 dated 15 November, 2017 has not been refunded even upto 14 March, 2018; and