

Subject: Counter comments to OTT Consultation Paper

Dear sir,

I am writing to you [today](#) to express my strong opposition to the demands of the telecom service providers (TSPs) regarding the regulation of over-the-top (OTT) communication services.

I respectfully request that you do not publish my email address or any other information except my name in the public domain.

First, I would like to clarify that I am not an expert on the regulatory domain. However, I do believe that the current market-driven pricing model has been beneficial for India. It has allowed for innovation and competition, which has led to lower prices and better services for consumers.

The TSPs' demands to seek rent on OTT services are a violation of natural justice. They are essentially asking for a cut of the profits of OTT providers, even though they do not provide any of the content or services that OTT providers offer. This is similar to the Nokku Kooli practice in Kerala, where laborers demand payment for simply showing up to work, even if they do not actually do any work.

The TSPs argue that they need to be compensated for the "last mile" infrastructure that they provide. However, this infrastructure is already paid for by consumers through their monthly phone bills. The TSPs are simply trying to double-dip by charging OTT providers for access to this infrastructure.

If the TSPs' demands are met, it will set a dangerous precedent. It will open the door to other businesses demanding rent from innovative companies. This will stifle innovation and competition, which will ultimately harm consumers.

In addition to the points I have already mentioned, I would also like to add that such an action would cause an increase in tariffs. This is because the OTT players will have to charge their users for the fee that they have to pay to the TSPs. This will ultimately be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

I urge you to reject the TSPs' demands and continue the existing regulatory framework. This will ensure that the Indian market remains open and competitive, which will benefit all consumers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Derick Thomas