Dear Sh. Deepak,

The Authority issued a Consultation Paper on “Free Data” on 19th May, 2016 to address the issue of providing free internet access to consumers and to explore model(s) that could achieve the benefits of offering “free data” without infringing upon the regulation of TRAI. The comments and counter-comments received from the stakeholders were placed on the TRAI’s website. An Open House Discussion (OHD) with stakeholders was organized on 24th October 2016 at Hyderabad.

2. After analyzing the various issues involved and considering the comments received from stakeholders in their written response and during the OHD, the Authority has finalized its Recommendations titled “Encouraging Data usage in Rural Areas through Provisioning of Free Data”. The Authority recommendations are enclosed herewith.

3. In keeping with practice, a copy of this letter, along with the recommendations, is being placed on the website of TRAI (www.trai.gov.in).

This letter issues with the approval of the Authority.

Encl: as above

With Regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sudhir Gupta)

Shri J.S. Deepak,
Secretary,
Department of Telecommunications,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001