



भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण
TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
भारत सरकार / Government of India



No. R-16/(1)/2023-NSL-I

Date: 24th April 2023

To,

The Secretary
Department of Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications
Sanchar Bhawan, Ashoka Road
New Delhi – 110 001

Subject: Recommendations on “Improving Telecom Coverage and Backhaul Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Ladakh” – regarding.

This is to bring your kind attention towards the pressing need for improving the telecom coverage and backhaul infrastructure in the far-flung areas of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh. Recent media reports have highlighted the challenges faced by the people living in close proximity to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in accessing high-speed internet, which is critical for pursuing online education and accessing digital banking. Furthermore, many remote areas in Ladakh lack mobile towers, resulting in network issues, particularly for those residing near the LAC and the Line of Control (LoC). As these areas are of strategic importance, mobile connectivity is crucial for ensuring the safety of the region by facilitating timely communication to the security forces deployed in that region.

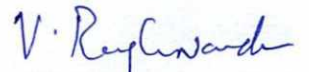
2. In light of these issues, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the present status of telecom infrastructure and backhaul infrastructure gap in Ladakh. The TRAI has obtained the current status of mobile network coverage and backhaul infrastructure layout data in Ladakh from operating Telecom Service Providers (TSPs)/Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) and details of ongoing USOF sponsored telecom projects from the concerned authorities.

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3. Based on the analysis of this data and evaluation of the Government-sponsored Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) schemes under implementation, the TRAI has formulated recommendations for enhancing telecom coverage and backhaul infrastructure in the far-flung areas of Ladakh, which are enclosed herewith. We hope that our recommendations will be of use in addressing the pressing needs of the people of Ladakh, particularly those residing in remote areas.

4. In adherence to the protocol, a copy of this letter and the enclosed recommendations are being placed on the TRAI website (www.traigov.in) for the public's perusal.

Enclosure: As above



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