

**Information note to the Press
(Press Release No.35/2020)**


Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

For Immediate Release

TRAI issues “Telecom Tariff (65th Amendment) Order, 2020 (2 of 2020)”

New Delhi, 3rd June 2020 – The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) today issued “Telecom Tariff (65th Amendment) Order, 2020 (2 of 2020)”.

2. With the enactment of this amendment, Schedule XIII of the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 and entries thereunder shall stand deleted. Schedule XIII of the Telecommunication Tariff Order, 1999 made it obligatory for telecom service providers to charge a minimum of 50 paisa per SMS for every SMS exceeding 100 SMS per SIM per day. The deletion of Schedule XIII thus implies another step of TRAI in doing away of the tariff regulation and strengthening the regime of tariff forbearance.
3. The amendment has been carried out after an elaborate consultation process wherein a draft amendment was placed on the website of TRAI for comments and counter comments of the stakeholders. After receipt of comments and counter comments and in the wake of situation arising from spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the TRAI organised its first ever Open House Discussion (OHD) through the videoconferencing mode. The online OHD provided stakeholders another opportunity to participate in the consultation exercise and share their valuable views.
4. Schedule XIII was introduced in Telecommunication Tariff Order in the year 2012 and it was meant to serve as a complimentary safeguard to the provisions of then Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulation, 2010 (TCCCPR 2010) to curb the menace of Unsolicited Commercial Communication (UCC). In 2018, the TRAI replaced TCCCPR 2010 with the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (6 of 2018) dated the 19th July, 2018 (TCCCPR, 2018). The new regulatory framework prescribed under the TCCCPR 2018 is technology driven and prescribes technological solutions to detect the UCC such as advanced signature solutions, UCC detect system etc. Considering the comprehensiveness of TCCCPR 2018 in dealing with the menace of UCC, it was felt that tariff regulation which has the potential of adversely affecting the interests of genuine non-commercial bulk users of SMS is no longer required and therefore can be removed.
5. Details of these amendments along with the examination of issues raised by stakeholders during the consultation process are available on the TRAI website www.trai.gov.in.
6. In case of any clarifications, Shri Kaushal Kishore, Advisor (F&EA), TRAI may be contacted at email id: advf&ea@traigov.in or at Telephone Number +91 11 23230752.


(S. K. Gupta)
Secretary