

Suggestions for NTP:

1. Pro-people policy

1.1 Present Status in Rural and Remote areas: USOF is utilized for the development of telecom sector in rural as well as remote areas. Following features are found in these areas in telecom sector:

- i. Mismatch between the cost of Telecom services and income of the people of rural and remote areas.
- ii. Only selective people use available telecom services in these areas.
- iii. Employees of these National Level companies' hesitate in getting posting in remote areas due to difference in culture/ language/ geographical areas.

Due to reasons cited above, National Level players are less interested to give services in these areas. Though due to Governments guidelines and service obligations, TSPs/ ISPs are giving services in these areas but service quality is much below the requirement and fails to comply with the benchmarks set by TRAI/ Government. On the other hand, there is wide-spread unemployment in these areas. To fill the gap, a comprehensive and inclusive telecom policy is needed to resolve these issues.

1.2 Possible solution:

- Instead of transferring USOF to TSPs (mainly PSUs like BSNL), the amount may be transferred to small licensees of rural/remote service areas. It will also help solve the issues which are not directly related to telecom such as unemployment, migration from rural to urban areas, unnecessary transportation, grievances of old persons etc.
- In addition to LSAs/ SSAs, licenses/ permission may be issued district-wise/ sub district-wise/ village-wise. Further, such licenses may be given to local based people of that area with priority and with concessions regarding license fee/ entry fee/ Bank Guarantee etc.
- Availability of finance may be ensured in these areas. Entry fee, license fee and Bank Guarantees may be waived off/liberalized.
- Training may be provided offline/ online to youth in these areas. An online portal may be made available.

Above mentioned steps would have a great impact on improving the quality of life in remote/ rural areas.

2. Portal for ONLINE trading of telecom resources

2.1 A portal may be developed wherein all the available telecom resources shall be available to ensure seamless and secure communication between

- a) 2 or more TSPs;
- b) TSP and customers.

Services offered, service areas, ownership, resources, cost of telecom services etc. of each TSP may be incorporated in this portal.

2.2 Benefits:

- i. This shall facilitate easy and convenient sharing/ trading/ selling of telecom resources online. The method to do so may be by giving/ linking their licenses permission/ NOC a specific code or linking with AADHAR or otherwise.
- ii. It will be a win-win situation for both the parties (TSPs as well as customers) and would lead to low cost telecom services by optimizing the same.
- iii. It shall also help in restricting communication through illegal/ unauthorized means which are presently being used by foreign intelligence agencies/ terrorists etc. to extract information.
- iv. It will also provide level playing fields between players and transparency in system as there will be no hidden cost.
