



**Association of Unified Telecom Service
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PRESS RELEASE

Threat of disconnection by BSNL in violation of TRAI Regulation will lead to public hardship

12th September 2011: We wish to inform all the consumers/CAGs of Rajasthan regarding the illegal and coercive activity of BSNL to attempt to disconnect interconnectivity between its network (both landline and mobile) and private mobile operators' network. This threat arises from illegal claims made by BSNL against private operators for delivery of its calls within the same circle/state of BSNL. This is in clear violation of the TRAI Regulations of March 2009 as well as the TDSAT orders. The disconnection threats by BSNL, if carried out, would result in extreme hardship to consumers in various circles of all networks including that of BSNL.

According to "TRAI's Interconnect Usage Charges (Regulation 2009)", a private operator is required to pay 15 paise per minute as carriage charges for a call to the BSNL's Fixed Line network within the state/circle. However BSNL is unfairly trying to charge a higher amount of 65 paise per minute for such calls from all the private operators.

This is contrary to TRAI's IUC Regulation of March 2009. Private operators are not liable to pay this amount as wrongly claimed by BSNL. The TRAI IUC Regulation of March 2009 is still valid and subsisting.

BSNL has wrongly reported the entire issue and no amount is outstanding on this account to BSNL. On the contrary, the proposed coercive and unilateral action by BSNL to disconnect the private operators interconnection is against consumer interest as it will cause undue hardship to consumers of not only all private operators but that of BSNL as well.

On behalf of the industry, we appeal to CMD, BSNL to withdraw these illegal demands. The disconnection will cause inconvenience to all the consumers all over country.

About COAI:

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-profit, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. (<http://www.coai.in/>)

About AUSPI:

Association of Unified Telecom Service Providers of India (AUSPI) is the representative industry body of Unified Access Service Licensees providing telecom services in the country with CDMA & GSM technology. AUSPI is a registered society and works as a non-profit organization - Delivering the promise of improved Access, Coverage and Teledensity in India. (<http://www.auspi.in/about-us.asp>)