

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2195

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

CABLE LANDING STATIONS REGULATIONS

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has released the International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges Regulation, 2012;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) the reaction of various stakeholders thereon and the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether these regulations have been effected in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which various service providers and consumers have been benefited by the new regulations so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) With a view to align Access Facilitation Charges (AFC) with current cost and utilization, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued consultation paper on 22.03.2012. On the basis of comments & cost data submitted by service providers, TRAI has released 'The International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges Regulations, 2012 (No. 27 of 2012)' on 21st December, 2012. In the regulations, inter -alia, following Access Facilitation Charges were specified:

SI.No. Capacity Access Facilitation Charges Per Unit Capacity Per annum (in Rs.)

At Cable Landing Station At Alternate Location

(a) STM-1 36,000 1,11,000

(b) STM-4 93,000 2,88,000

(c) STM-16 2,40,000 7,50,000

(d) STM-64 6,25,000 19,50,000

These charges are substantially lower than the prevailing charges and are likely to result in:

Reduction in the price of International Private Leased Circuits (IPLC) for BPOs/Call Centres, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and other information technology enabled service providers.

Availability of International bandwidth at competitive price to International Long Distance Operators/Internet Service Providers for rapid growth of Broadband services.

International carriage of voice/data at competitive rates.

Boosting of competition in the International bandwidth segment.

(c) to (e) The above Regulations were challenged by M/s Tata Communications Limited and M/s Bharti Airtel Limited in the Madras High Court. The Madras High Court has stayed the implementation of TRAI's Regulation vide its order dated 24.01.2013 and 21.02.2013.