



Cellular Operators Association of India

PRESS RELEASE

New Delhi, October 31, 2007... COAI expressed its **complete shock and disbelief** at the **revised subscriber link criteria put up by the DoT on its website today**. The criteria represents an even further tightening of the subscriber linkages from those recommended by TRAI.

Mr. TV Ramachandran, Director General, COAI said that it was **evident that all the inputs given by the GSM industry had been completely disregarded** by the TEC and that the **excessive hike in subscriber numbers was being done with a single point agenda to choke and deprive the existing GSM operators of spectrum and to facilitate a priority entry of select players into GSM**.

Although the detailed calculations were yet to be put up by the TEC, it is evident that an **increase in the subscriber linkages by as much as 800% in the revised criteria that was reviewed only last year, indicates that the objective is not to ensure spectrum efficiency but rather to ensure spectrum deficiency for the existing GSM operators**.

Mr. Ramachandran stated that the **exercise appeared to be aimed at destroying a performing sector and to deny all existing GSM consumers of their right to get quality mobile services at affordable prices**.

Mr. Ramachandran also pointed out that the current exercise had been done in a **non transparent manner and in complete departure from the process followed in 2003**, where the industry representative was part of the Committee and was involved in the deliberations and had also signed off on the report. He stated that **the undue haste, the lack of transparency and the departure from due process also raised serious questions about the objective of this entire exercise**.

He stated that the general feeling in the industry was that it was being punished for going to TDSAT on this issue.

He also stated that the Government was obviously **adopting differential and discriminatory standards** as it had already **allotted 10 MHz/12.4 MHz to the public sector GSM operators** which was **in excess of their entitlement even under the earlier criteria**.
