



Press Release

COAI Appeals to Supreme Court against High Court's Order on Call Drop Judgement



New Delhi, March 03, 2015: The Indian mobile telephony services industry, represented by COAI today decided to file an SLP (Special Leave Petition) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court challenging the Regulation issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 16th October, 2015 and against the ruling of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter.

COAI is requesting the Honorable Supreme Court to consider its prayer that the TRAI Regulation on Call Drops is ultra vires the TRAI Act in that the Act does not give TRAI adjudicatory powers and hence TRAI cannot grant compensation. Further, the TRAI regulation is also ultra vires the Telegraph Act of 1885 under which Mobile companies are licensed wherein 100% coverage of the licensed geography is not required. Hence call drops emanating from these areas should not be subject to compensation. Finally COAI represents that it is impossible to identify all the reasons for call drops and hence implementation of TRAI order is not feasible.

COAI recognizes the inconvenience to customers due to call drops and is committed making the necessary investment and improvements to its networks, including working with the government to obtain required cell sites on government land and buildings. We believe the TRAI Regulation distracts the industry from focusing on the root causes of the problem which are lack of adequate spectrum and availability of cell tower locations.. The telecom industry has already invested more than Rs.50, 000 crore towards infrastructure upgradation and spectrum acquisition in 2014-15. There has been a substantial growth in network coverage and capacity with almost 70,000 additional cell sites being installed by the operators in the last 6 months to boost connectivity.

About COAI

COAI was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-governmental society. COAI's vision is to establish India as the global leader of innovative mobile communications infrastructure, products and services and achieving a national teledensity of 100%, including broadband. The association is also dedicated to the advancement of modern communication and towards delivering the benefits of innovative and affordable mobile communication services to the people of India.

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