

April 15, 2024 ITU-APT/L/23-24/870

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Hon'ble Minister for Communications, IT and Railways Government of India Sanchar Bhawan New Delhi-110001

Subject: Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023

Dear Respected Sir,

The passing of the Telecommunications Bill, 2023 in Dec'23 marks a significant event for the telecommunications industry since the legislation aims to promote ease of doing business, growth and protection of investments in networks and services while also ensuring that regulatory mechanisms are in place to usher in newer technologies.

We appreciate the Department of Telecom's thorough consultation process which paved the way for the introduction of the Telecommunications Act, 2023. The active participation of multiple stakeholders including the telecom industry, leading industry chambers, academia, think tanks and general public underscores the importance and impact of this pivotal legislative reform.

The government is expected to announce Subordinate Rules to the Telecommunications Act, 2023 in order to operationalize key aspects of the Act such as Telecom Authorization & Licensing, Spectrum assignment/ Allotment/pricing/trading/surrender, Right of Way (RoW), KYC norms, lawful interception, management of illegal repeaters, Consumer Protection, Sandbox, etc.

In the interest of expediency in on-ground implementation, and providing a stable regulatory environment under which investments can flourish, we recommend that the

DoT conducts industry consultations on the Draft Rules, prior to seeking executive approval for their release or notification. This will ensure best outcomes from the implementation of the Act for the industry and stakeholders.

We would be obliged if a timeline and procedure for such a consultation may be informed by DoT.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

Bend.

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