

ITUAPT/L/21-22/257

October 7, 2021

To

Shri K Rajaraman, IAS
Secretary
Department of Telecommunication
Sanchar Bhawan New Delhi-110001

Dear Sir,

Thank you for sparing your valuable time for meeting with me last Friday on your taking over as Secretary DOT and Chairman, Digital Communications Commission. I would like to again congratulate you and welcome you formally to the telecom fraternity. We are happy to learn that DoT has asked TRAI to make recommendations on 5G auctions and I would like to congratulate DoT for this timely step. We continue to believe that the spectrum is overly priced in India and the spectrum prices need to be reduced to support India's economic growth.

As mentioned during my courtesy call, we would like to call on you and present our views on some of the key spectrum related issues in person on a suitable date/time at your convenience. However, there are some urgent ITU conferences related issues that need immediate attention. I am highlighting only those issues here:

1. Participation in ITU-R and APT Meetings: Spectrum is a natural resource with no boundaries. India along with all other Member States of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) are responsible towards growth of Radio-sector by providing technical and regulatory contributions making it more robust and future proof. For past few years there has been a decline in Indian contributions in these meetings. It can improve by adopting a PPP model where both industry and government agencies contribute towards technology, future aspects, and other fields. In IAFI, we have some ITU experts who have been participating and contributing in these meetings for decades. We will be happy to take lead on some of the activities in ITU-R on behalf of India in these meetings. We will also be happy to support initial studies on the 6G vision towards WRC-27/IMT-2030 agenda item so that India proactively contributes to the vision, technology trends, etc.
2. Preparations for ITU World Radio Conference-23 (WRC-23): The proposals for the third Asia Pacific preparatory meeting for WRC-23 are due on November 1. IAFI is working on initial drafts of these contributions and will submit the same to WPC by 22nd October. It is imperative that DOT constitutes a National Preparatory Committee for WRC-23 (NPC-



WRC-23) at the earliest and convenes a meeting to finalize these contributions before the November 1 deadline.

3. Finalization of NFAP-21 – The last National Frequency allocation Plan (NFAP) was published in 2018 and it was expected that the next version will be issued in 2020 after the new Radio Regulation became available. A timely revision of NFAP will help India to keep pace with the technology development. Most of the consultations for NFAP-21

have been completed and it is requested that the revised NFAP be published as soon as possible.

4. Indians in ITU Secretariat: Earlier DoT had some officers posted to ITU secretariat which ensured that Indian interests including support to Department of Space for satellite orbits are taken care of. Although, lately there have been no such postings done and we are leaving those vacant which are impacting Indian interest within ITU. This issue may kindly be accorded in due consideration.

We look forward to an early action on these issues and we would also like to seek an appointment for a short presentation on various substantive spectrum issues by our key members – both from mobile services and satellite services.

With warm regards,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Bhatia', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Bharat B Bhatia,

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