

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
(Department of Telecommunications)

PRESS NOTE

(1999 SERIES)

Subject : Cellular Mobile Telephone Services to be technology – neutral

The Government have adopted New Telecom Policy-99 effective from 1st April, 1999. The NTP-99 which is seen as a considerable improvement over the earlier policy, was formulated by a high level Group on Telecommunications consisting of experts from Industry, Financial Institutions and Telecom.

The NTP-99 envisages that Cellular Mobile Service providers (CMSP) under the new licensing regime shall be free to provide all types of mobile services using any type of network equipment that meet the relevant International Telecommunication Union (ITU/Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) standards. The technology neutral approach for provision of cellular mobile services will enable faster and cost effective roll out of the cellular networks by leveraging technological developments.

Accordingly, the Telecom Commission have now decided that –

- (a) All new Cellular Mobile Service Providers will be technology neutral; however, the technology must be digital. The existing licensees of cellular services on their migration to the NTP-99 regime in terms of migration package already offered to them, will also be permitted to expand their networks using any other

technology or the GSM technology to which they have been bound so far as per the existing licences.

- (b) The Deptt of Telecom/MTNL would operate cellular services under the same terms and conditions of license would be applicable to private operators. In view of the objectives of NTP-99, till the terms and conditions of new licences are finalized for which recommendations of TRAI have already been sought, DOT/MTNL would be permitted to operator cellular mobile services under provisional licence; the terms and conditions as finalized would be applicable to all licence; the terms and conditions as finalized would be applicable to all licensees under NTP-99 including MTNL and DOT. In terms of NTP-99, the licence fee thus received would be reimbursed to DOT to provide resources for meeting immense rural and social obligations.

Sd/- illegible

(J.R.GUPTA)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (VAS)

F.No.842-304/99-VAS dated the 13th September, 1999

Forwarded to the Director (PR), Ministry of Communications, New Delhi for giving wide publicity to the contents of the above Press Note.

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1. All the concerned Ministries
2. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi
3. Cellular Operators Association of India