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THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 2000

No. 2 OF 2000

Promulgated by the President in the Fiftieth Year of the Republic of India.

An Ordinance to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

WHEREAS Parliament is not in session and the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action.

NOW, THEREFORE in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 123 of the Constitution. The President is pleased to promulgate the following

Ordinance:-

	(1) This Ordinance may be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment), Ordinance, 2000	Short title and Commencement.
	(2) It shall come into force at once.	
Amendment of long title	2. In the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act,) in the long title for the words "Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the telecommunication services", the words "Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to regulate the telecommunication services, adjudicate disputes, dispose of appeals and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector" shall be substituted.	24 of 1997.
Amendment of section 2	3. In section 2 of the principal Act,-	
	(a) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-	
	(aa) "Appellate Tribunal " means the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal established under section 14.	
	(b) after clause (e), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-	
	(ea) "licensor " means the Central Government or the telegraph authority who grants a license under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.	13 of 1885.
	(c) in clause (f), for the word "Government ", the words	

	"Government as a service provider " shall be substituted.	
	(d) in clause (k), the following provision shall be inserted, namely:-	
	"Provided that the Central Government may notify other service to be telecommunication service including broadcasting services."	
Amendment of section 3	4. In section 3 of the principal Act, for sub-section (3) the following sub-section shall be substituted namely:-	
	(a) The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson, and not more than two whole time members and not more than two-part time members, to be appointed by the Central Government."	
Substituter of New section For section 4.	5. The section 4 of the principal Act the following section shall be substituted namely:-	
Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and other members.	"4. The Chairperson and other members of the Authority shall be appointed by the Central - Government from amongst persons who have special knowledge of, and professional experience in telecommunication, industry, finance, accountancy, law,management or consumer affairs:	
	Provided that a person who is, or has been , in the service of Government shall not be appointed as a member unless such person has held the post of Secretary or Additional Secretary, or the post of Additional Secretary and Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of not less than three years."	
Amendment of sector 5.	6. In section 5 of the principal Act-	
	a. for sub-sections (2) and (3) the following shall be substituted	
	(2) The Chairperson and other members shall hold office for a term not exceeding three years , as the Central Government may notify in this behalf , from the date on which they enter upon their offices or until they attain the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.	
	(3) On the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance 2000, a person appointed as Chairperson of the Authority and every other person appointed as member and holding office as such immediately before such commencement shall vacate their respective offices and such Chairperson and such other members shall be entitled to claim compensation not exceeding three month pay and allowances for the premature termination of the term of their office or any contract of service."	
	(b)in sub section (5), for the words "other members" the words "whole-time members" shall be substituted.	
	(c) after sub-section (6), the following sub-section shall be inserted,namely:-	
	"(6A) The part-time members shall receive such allowances as may be prescribed."	

	(d)in sub -section (7) , the words , brackets and figure "or sub-section (3)" shall be ommitted.	
	e. in sub-section (8)-	
	(i)in clause (b) for the words "two years", the words "one year" shall be substituted:	
	(ii)after clause (b), the following provision shall be inserted, namely:-	
	"Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to the Chairperson or a member who has ceased to hold office under sub-section (3) and such Chairperson or member shall be eligible for re-appointment in the Authority or appointment in the Appellate Tribunal."	
	7.In section 7 of the principal Act, for sub-sections(2) and (3) ,the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:-	Amendment of section 7.
	"(2) No such member shall be removed from his office under clause (d) or clause (e) of sub-section (1) unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in the matter".	
	8. In section 10 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2)-	Amendment of section 10.
	(a)for the words "determined by regulations ",the word "prescribed" shall be substituted:	
	a. after sub-section (2), the following provision shall be inserted namely:-	
	"Provided that any regulation, in respect of the salary and allowance payable to and other conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Authority, made before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance 2000,shall cease to have effect immediately on the notification of rules made under clause (ca) of sub-section (2) of section 35."	
Amendment of section 11	9.In section 11 of the principal Act-	
	a. for sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be substituted,namely:-	
	(1)Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Telegraph Act,1885,the functions of the Authority shall be to-	13 of 1885
	(a)make recommendations, either suo motu or on a request from the licensor, on the following matters, namely:-	
	(i) need and timing for introduction of new service provider;	
	(ii) terms and conditions of license to a service provider;	
	(iii) revocation of license for non-compliance of terms and conditions of license:	

	(iv) measures to facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth in such services.	
	(v) technological improvements in the services provided by the service providers.	
	(vi) type of equipment to be used by the service providers after inspection of equipment used in the network.	
	(vii) measures for the development of telecommunication technology and any other matter relating to telecommunication industry in general;	
	(viii) efficient management of available spectrum;	
	(b) discharge the following functions, namely:-	
	(i) ensure compliance of terms and conditions of license;	
	(ii) notwithstanding anything contained in the terms and conditions of the license granted before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000, fix the terms and conditions of inter-connectivity between the service providers;	
	(iii) ensure technical compatibility and effective inter-connection between different service providers.	
	(iv) regulate arrangement amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunication services;	
	(v) lay down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and ensure the quality of service and conduct the periodical survey of such service provided by the service providers so as to protect interest of the consumers of telecommunication services;	
	(vi) lay down and ensure the time period for providing local and long distance circuits of telecommunication between different service providers;	
	(vii) maintain register of interconnect agreements and of all such other matters as may be provided in the regulations;	
	(viii) keep register maintained under clause (viii) open for inspection to any member of public on payment of such fee and compliance of such other requirement as may be provided in the regulations;	
	(ix) ensure effective compliance of universal service obligations:	
	(c) levy fees and other charges at such rates and in respect of such services as may be determined by regulations	
	(d) perform such other functions including such administrative and financial functions as may be entrusted to it by the Central Government or as may be necessary to carry out the provisions	

	of this Act:	
	Provided that the recommendations of the Authority specified in the clause (a) of this sub-section shall not be binding upon the Central Government:	
	Provided further that the Central Government shall seek the recommendations of the Authority in respect of matters specified in sub-clauses (i) and (ii) of clause (a) of this sub-section in respect of new licence to be issued to a service provider and the Authority shall forward its recommendations within a period of sixty days from the date on which that Government sought the recommendations:	
	Provided also that the Authority may request the Central Government to furnish such information or documents as may be necessary for the purpose of making recommendations under sub-clauses (i) and (ii) of clause (a) of this sub-section and that Government shall supply such information within a period of seven days from receipt of such request:	
	Provided also that the Central Government may issue a licence to a service provider if no recommendations are received from the Authority within the period of specified in the second provision or within such period as may be mutually agreed upon between the Central Government and the Authority.	
	Provided also that if the Central Government having considered that recommendation of the Authority comes to a prima facie conclusion that such recommendation cannot be accepted or needs modifications, it shall, refer the recommendations back to the Authority for its reconsideration, and the Authority may within fifteen days from the date of receipt of such reference, forward to the Central Government its recommendation after considering the reference made by the Government. After receipt of further recommendation, if any, the Central Government shall take a final decision.	
	(b) In sub-section (3), for the words, brackets and figure "under sub-section (1) "the words, brackets and figures under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) "shall be substituted.	
	10. In section-13 of the principal Act, the following provision shall be inserted namely -	Amendment of section-13
	"Provided that no direction under sub-section (4) of section 12 or under this section shall be issued except on the matter specified in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11."	
Substitution of new Chapter for Chapter IV	11. For Chapter IV of the principal Act the following Chapter shall be substituted, namely-	
	CHAPTER APPELLATE TRIBUNAL	IV
Establishment of Appellate Tribunal	14. The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Appellate Tribunal to be known as the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to -	
	(a) adjudicate any dispute -	
	(i) between a licensor and a licensee;	

	(ii) between two or more service providers;	
	(iii) between a service provider and a group of consumers:	
	Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply in respect of matters relating to -	
	(A) the monopolistic trade practice, restrictive trade practice and unfair trade practice which are subject to jurisdiction of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Commission established under sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969;	54 of 1969
	(B) the complaint of an individual consumer maintainable before a Consumer Redressal Forum or a Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or the National Consumer Redressal Commission established under section 9 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;	68 of 1986
	(C) dispute between telegraph authority and any other person referred to in sub-section (1) of Section 7 B of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885;	13 of 1885
	(b) hear and dispose of appeal against any direction, decision or order of the Authority under this Act.	
Application for settlement of disputes and appeals to Appellate Tribunal	14 A. (1) The Central Government or a State Government or a local authority or any person may take an application to the Appellate Tribunal for adjudication of any dispute referred to in clause (a) of section 14.	
	(2) The Central Government or a State Government or a Local Authority or any person aggrieved by any direction, decision or order made by the Authority may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal.	
	(3) Every appeal under Sub-section (2) shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date on which a copy of the direction or order or decision made by the Authority is received by the Central Government or the State Government or the Local Authority or the aggrieved person and it shall be in such form, verified in such manner and be accompanied by such fee as may be prescribed:	
	Provided that the Appellate Tribunal may entertain any appeal after the expiry of thirty days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filling it within that period.	
	(4) On receipt of an application under sub-section (1) or an appeal under sub-section (2), the Appellate Tribunal may, after giving the parties to the dispute or the appeal an opportunity of being heard, pass such orders thereon as it thinks fit.	
	(5) The Appellate Tribunal shall send a copy of every order made by it to the parties to the dispute or the appeal and to the Authority, as the case may be.	
	(6) The application made under sub-section (1) or the appeal preferred under sub-section (2) shall be dealt with by it as expeditiously as possible and endeavour shall be made by to dispose of the application or appeal finally within ninety days	

		from the date of receipt of application or appeal as the case may be.	
		Provided that where any such application or appeal could not be disposed of within the said period of ninety days, the Appellate Tribunal shall record its reasons in writing for not disposing of the application or appeal within the said period.	
		(7) The Appellate Tribunal may, for the purpose of examining the legality or propriety or correctness of any dispute made in any application under sub-section (1), or of any direction or order or decision of the Authority referred to in the appeal preferred under sub-section (2), on its own motion or otherwise, call for the records relevant to disposing of such applications or appeal and make such orders as it thinks fit.	
		14 B (1) The Appellate Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than two Members to be appointed, by notification, by the Central Government.	Composition of Appellate Tribunal
		(2) The selection of Chairperson and Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be made by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.	
		(3) Subject to the provision of this Act -	
		(a) the jurisdiction of the Appellate Tribunal may be exercised by the Benches thereof;	
		(b) a Bench may be constituted by the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal with one or two members of such Tribunal as the Chairperson may deem fit;	
		(c) the Benches of the Appellate Tribunal shall ordinarily sit at New Delhi and at such other places as the Central Government may, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal, notify;	
		(d) the Central Government shall notify the areas in relation to which each Bench of the Appellate Tribunal may exercise its jurisdiction.	
		(4). Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may transfer a Member of such Tribunal from one Bench to another Bench.	
		(5). If at any stage of the hearing of any case or matter, it appears to the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal that the case or matter is of such a nature that it ought to be heard by a Bench consisting of two Members, the case or matter may be transferred by the Chairperson to such Bench as the Chairperson may deem fit.	
Amendment of Section 23	of	12. In section 23 of the Principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following explanation shall be inserted, namely:-	
		"Explanation - For the removal or doubts, it is hereby declared that the decisions of the Authority taken in discharge of its function under clause (b) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 11 and section 13, being matters appealable to the Appellate Tribunal, shall not be subject to audit under this section".	
Amendment of	of	13. In section 35 of the Principal Act -	

Section 35		
	(d) after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-	
	(aa) the allowances payable to the part time members under sub-section (6A) of section 5:	
	(b) after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted namely:-	
	"(ca) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of officers and other employees of the Authority under sub-section (2) of section 10; "	
	(c) after clause (d), the following clauses shall be inserted namely:-	
	"(da) the form , the manner of its verification and the fee under sub-section (3) of section 14A;	
	(db) the salary and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members of the Appellate Tribunal under section 14E;	
	(dc) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (3) of section 14H;	
	(dd) any other power of a civil court required to be prescribed under clause (i) of sub-section (2) of section 16;	
Amendment of section 36.	14. In section 36 of the Principal Act, in sub-section (2) -	
	(a) clause (c) shall be omitted.	
	(b) in clause (d) for the words, brackets and letter "under clause (1)", the words, brackets and letters "under sub-clause (vii) of clause (b) "shall be substituted;	
	(c) in clause (e) for the words, brackets and letter "under clause (m)", the words, brackets and letters "under sub-clause (viii) of clause (b)" shall be substituted;	
	(d) in clause (f) for the word brackets and letter "under clause (p) " the words and letter" under clause (c) shall be substituted.	
Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and Members	14C. A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal unless he-	
	(a) in the case of Chairperson, is or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court;	
	(b) in the case of a Member, who has held the post of Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of not less than two years or a person who is well versed in the field of technology, telecommunication, industry, commerce or administration.	
Term of office	14D. The Chairperson and every other Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall hold office as such for a term not exceeding three years from the date on which he enters upon his office:	
	Provided that no Chairperson or other Member shall hold office as such after he has attained-	
	(a) in the case of Chairperson, the age of seventy years;	
	(b) in the case of any other Member, the age of sixty five years.	
Terms and conditions	14E. The salary and allowance payable to and the other terms	

of service	and conditions of service of the Chairperson and whole-time members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.	
	Provided that neither the salary and allowances nor the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.	
Vacancies	14F. If, for reason other than temporary absence, any vacancy occurs in the office of the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal, the Central Government shall appoint another person in accordance with the provisions of this Act to fill the vacancy and the proceedings may be continued before the Appellate Tribunal from the stage at which the vacancy is filled.	
Remove and resignation	14G. (1) The Central Government may remove from office, the Chairperson or any Member of the Appellate Tribunal, who-	
	(a) has been adjudged an insolvent: or	
	(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Central Government involves moral turpitude; or	
	(c) has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as the Chairperson or a Member; or	
	(d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as the Chairperson or a Member; or	
	(e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.	
	(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal shall not be removed from his office on the ground specified in clause (d) or (e) of that sub-section unless the Supreme	
	Court on a reference being made to it in this behalf by the Central Government, has, on an enquiry, held by it in accordance with such procedure as it may specify in this behalf, reported that the Chairperson or a Member ought on such ground or grounds to be removed.	
	(3) The Central Government may suspend from office, the Chairperson or a Member of the Appellate Tribunal in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court under sub-section (2), until the Central Government has passed an order on receipt of the report of the Supreme Court on such reference.	
	14H. (1) The Central Government shall provide the Appellate Tribunal with such officers and employees as it may deem fit.	Staff of Appellate Tribunal.
	(2) The officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence its Chairperson.	
	(3) The salaries and allowances and other conditions of service of such officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be prescribed.	
	14I. Where Benches are constituted, the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may, from time to time, by notification, make provisions as to the distribution of the business of the Appellate Tribunal amongst the Benches and also provide for the matters which may be dealt with by each Bench.	Distribution of business amongst Benches.

	14J. On the application of any of the parties and after notice to the parties, and after hearing such of them as he may desire to be heard, or on his own motion without such notice, the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal may transfer any case pending before one Bench, for disposal, to any other Bench.	Power of Chairperson to transfer cases.
	14K. If the Members of a Bench consisting of two Members differ in opinion on any point, they shall state the point or points on which they differ, and make a reference to the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal who shall hear the point or points himself and such point or points shall be decided according to the opinion of the majority who have heard the case, including those who first heard it.	Decision to be by majority.
45 of 1860	14L. The Chairperson, Members and other officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.	Members etc. to be public servants.
	14M. All applications, pending for adjudication of disputes before the Authority immediately before the date of establishment of the Appellate Tribunal under this Act, shall stand transferred on that date to such Tribunal: Provided that all disputes being adjudicated under the provisions of Chapter IV as it stood immediately before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000, shall continue to be adjudicated by the Authority in accordance with the provisions contained in that Chapter, till the establishment of the Appellate Tribunal under the said Ordinance: Provided further that all cases referred to in the first provision shall be transferred by the Authority to the Appellate Tribunal immediately on its establishment under section 14.	
Transfer of appeals	14N. (1) All appeals pending before the High Court immediately before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000, shall stand transferred to the Appellate Tribunal on its establishment under section 14. (2) where any appeal stands transferred from the High Court to the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (1):- a. the High Court shall, as soon as may be after such transfer, forward the records of such appeal to the Appellate Tribunal: and b. the Appellate Tribunal may, on receipt of such records, proceed to deal with such appeal, so far as may be from the stage which was reached before such transfer or from any earlier stage or de novo as the Appellate Tribunal may deem fit.	
Civil court not to have jurisdiction.	15. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter which the Appellate Tribunal is empowered by or under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.	
Procedure and powers of Appellate	16. (1) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, but	5 of 1908.

	<p>any order, not being an interlocutory order, of the Appellate Tribunal to the Supreme Court on one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of that Code.</p> <p>(2) No appeal shall lie against any decision or order made by the Appellate Tribunal with the consent of the parties</p> <p>(3) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of ninety days from the date of the decision or order appealed against;</p> <p>Provided that the Supreme Court may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of ninety days, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.</p>	
	<p>19. (1) An order passed by the Appellate Tribunal under this Act shall be executable by the Appellate Tribunal as a decree of civil court, and for this purpose, the Appellate Tribunal shall have all the powers of a civil court.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section(1), the Appellate Tribunal may transmit any order made by it to a civil court having local jurisdiction and such civil court shall execute the order as if it were a decree made by that court.</p>	Orders passed by Appellate Tribunal to be executable as a decree.
	<p>20. If any person willfully fails to comply with the order of the Appellate Tribunal, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of a second or subsequent offence with fine which may execute to two lakh rupees and in the case of continuing contravention with additional fine which may extend to two lakh rupees for every day during such default continues.</p>	Penalty for willful failure to comply with orders of Appellate Tribunal.
Amendment of section 23.	<p>12. In section 23 of the Principle Act, after sub-section (2), the following Explanation shall be inserted, namely:-</p> <p>"Explanation - For the removal of doubts it is hereby declared that the decisions of the Authority taken in discharge of its functions under clause (b) of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 11 and section 13, being matters appealable to the Appellate Tribunal, shall not be subject to audit under this section."</p>	
Amendment of section 35.	<p>13. In section 35 of the principle Act,-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. after clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:- b. "(aa) the allowances payable to the part-time members under sub-section (6A) of section 5:"; c. after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:- d. "(ca) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of officers and other employees of the Authority under sub-section (2) of section 10;"; e. after clause (d), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:- <p>"(da) the form, the manner of its verification and the fee under</p>	

		<p>sub-section (3) of section 14A;</p> <p>(db) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service the Chairperson and other Members of the Appellate Tribunal under section 14E;</p> <p>(dc) the salary and allowances and other conditions of service of the officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal under sub-section (3) of section 14H;</p> <p>(dd) any other power of a civil court required to be prescribed under clause (I) of sub-section (2) of section 16;"</p>	
Amendment of section 36.	of	<p>14. In section 36 of the principle Act, in sub-section (2),-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. clause (c) shall be omitted. b. In Clause (d), for the words, brackets and letter "under clause (I)", the words, brackets and letters "under sub-clause (vii) of clause (b)" shall be substituted; c. In clause (e), for the words, brackets and letter "under clause (m)", the words, brackets and letters "under sub-clause (viii) of clause (b)" shall be substituted; d. In clause (f), for the words, brackets and letter "under clause (p)", the words and letters "under clause (c)" shall be substituted; 	
		<p>K.R. NARAYANAN, President. RAGHBIR SINGH, Secy. To the Govt. of India.</p>	