

**Question 1: Should the TSPs be allowed to have differential pricing for data usage for accessing different websites, applications or platforms?**

Answer:

There are two aspects of the answer to this question.

1<sup>st</sup> one is namely, does it really matter to TSP from a technical stand point whether a subscriber to the internet is accessing this or that content, web site, applications and or platforms. Because any data being uploaded or down loaded is nothing but either a 0 or 1 bit. TSP doesn't incur any differential cost in carrying the data to and fro.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is namely, they are merely carriers of the data and have no right to decide for the subscribers as to what data the subscribers should choose to see or send or download.

All the TSP should have a common and a lower / negligible pricing to access all the emergency services that people at large can access. For that matter, if this could be made free for all the TSP, Nothing like it.

So the TSPs should not be allowed to have any differential pricing except for the above emergency services. They can create differentiation in their data services pack with speeds, limit to download etc., but that has nothing to do with restricting any content to the general internet users.

**Question 2: If differential pricing for data usage is permitted, what measures should be adopted to ensure that the principles of non discrimination, transparency, affordable internet access, competition and market entry and innovation are addressed?**

**Answer**

While I have expressed my opinion about allowing TSPs to have differential pricing in the Q1 as above, all the issues regarding non discrimination, transparency, affordable internet access, competition and market entry and innovation get automatically addressed by leaving the field completely open for the TSPs, content and Platform service providers, applications etc. The very fact that TSPs are allowed to offer a differential pricing, actually stifles innovation, creates barriers to market entry, creates discrimination and allows non transparency to creep in.

**Question 3. Are there alternative methods/technologies/business models, other than differentiated tariff plans, available to achieve the objective of providing free internet access to the consumers? If yes, please suggest/describe these methods/technologies/business models. Also, describe the potential benefits and disadvantages associated with such methods/technologies/business models?**

**Answer**

Emergency Services being made free

Allow expenditure by TSP to be treated as CSR expenditure in rural areas to make available and expand the internet

Using the Universal service obligation fund of Govt.

**Question-4: Is there any other issue that should be considered in the present consultation on differential pricing for data services?**

**Answer**

Skill development aspect for the people especially in the rural areas, so that they actually make use of the information available from the Net

Infrastructure development to enable universal net connectivity. This is a must as otherwise availability of opportunities and information on the net doesn't mean anything.