

To
Shri. Naveen Kumar,
Department of Telecommunications,
Ministry of Communications,
Sanchar Bhavan,
New Delhi

Sub: Response to the invitation for comments on the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022

Sir,

Based on the Explanatory Note to the Draft Indian Telecommunication Bill 2022, and the Draft Telecom Bill 2022 itself, I hereby bring to your attention the following key concerns:

1. Concerns related to Net Neutrality, Internet shutdown powers, onerous KYC processes, excess penalization, state surveillance, privacy concerns, violation of constitutional rights, and health & environmental effects, have either been insufficiently addressed or have been completely ignored/bypassed.

All of these concerns have been detailed in this pdf file:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a3oW6L8OpRUADKj6XrdWAFbPEredcn2G/view?usp=drivesdk>

2. There are serious concerns particularly related to Clause 14 and its subsections, which appear to be in clear violation of the Right to Privacy, Right To Be Left Alone, and Right To Be Forgotten, under Article 21, and also from the Right to Dignity, under Article 14, of the Constitution of India.

All of these concerns have been detailed in this pdf file:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mpDhNVWXrSdtSRTIfOIPZcA95Y-cCWHD/view?usp=share_link

3. Given the diversity of India, there seems to be little to no representation of stakeholders from a wide & varied demographic, as should ideally be the case. Rather, the Draft in its current form seems to incorporate the interests of an extremely limited and narrow demographic of the population.

Broad Recommendation:

I urge the DoT to withdraw the Draft Telecom Bill 2022 in its current form, and redrafted to incorporate the omissions & resolve the concerns as per the attached detailed documents. Further, the DoT must publish a white paper with justifications and reasoning for introducing any changes, and set up an institutionalised system of broad, multi-city, in-person stakeholder consultation. We also urge the Union Government to appoint a Law Commission and/or an independent Standing Committee or expert body to look into reforms for the telecommunication sector. Also, **Detailed Recommendations** against each relevant point have been elaborated in the PDF files(per the links provided above).

Sincerely,
<Name>
<City>
<Mobile Number>