

PART - 1

Telecommunications Laws

**THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OF INDIA ACT, 1997**

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**THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY
OF INDIA ACT, 1997**

[AMENDED]

AN

ACT

To provide for the establishment of (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) and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 25 January, 1997.

2. Definitions.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) ‘appointed day’ means the date with effect from which the Authority is established under sub-section (1) of section 3;

[(aa) ‘Appellate Tribunal’ means the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal established under section 14;]

(b) ‘Authority’ means the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India established under sub-section (1) of section 3;

(c) ‘Chairperson’ means the Chairperson of the Authority appointed under sub-section (3) of section 3;

(d) ‘fund’ means the fund constituted under sub-section (1) of section 22;

(e) ‘licensee’ means any person licensed under sub-section (1) of section 4 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885) for providing specified public telecommunication services;

[(ea) ‘licensor’ means the Central Government or the telegraph authority who grants a licence under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885);]

- (f) 'member' means a member of the Authority appointed under sub-section (3) of section 3 and includes the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson;
- (g) 'notification' means a notification published in the Official Gazette.
- (h) 'prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (i) 'regulations' means regulations made by the Authority under this Act;
- (j) 'service provider' means the [Government as a service provider] and includes a licensee;
- (k) 'telecommunication service' means service of any description (including electronic mail, voice mail, data services, audio tex services, video tex services, radio paging and cellular mobile telephone services) which is made available to users by means of any transmission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature, by wire, radio, visual or other electro-magnetic mean but shall not include broadcasting services;

[*Provided* that the Central Government may notify other service to be telecommunication service including broadcasting services.]

(2) Words and expressions used and not defined in this Act but defined in the Indian Telegraph Act.1885 (13 of 1885) or the Indian

Wireless Telegraphy Act,1933 (17 of 1933) shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in those Acts.

(3) Any reference in this Act to a law which is not in force in the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall in relation to that State be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in that State.

CHAPTER II

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

3. Establishment and incorporation of Authority.—(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification appoint, there shall be established for the purposes of this Act, an Authority to be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

[(3)] 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.]

(4) The head office of the Authority shall be at New Delhi.

[4. Qualification for appointment of Chairperson and other members.]—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.]

5. Term of office, conditions of service, etc., of Chairperson and other members.—(1) Before appointing any person as the Chairperson or member, the Central Government shall satisfy itself that the person does not have any such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as such member.

[(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 of India (Amendment) Act, 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 months pay and allowances for the premature termination of the term of their offices or of any contract of service.]

(4) The employee of the Government on his [selection as the Chairperson or whole-time member] shall have to retire from service before [joining as the Chairperson or a whole-time member.]

(5) The salary and allowances payable to and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and [whole-time members] shall be such as may be prescribed.

(6) The salary, allowances and other conditions of service of the Chairperson or of a member shall not be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.

[(6A) The part-time members shall receive such allowances as may be prescribed.]

(7) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) [* * * *], a member may—

- (a) relinquish his office by giving in writing to the Central Government notice of not less than three months; or
- (b) be removed from his office in accordance with the provisions of section 7.

(8) The Chairperson or any [whole-time member] ceasing to hold office as such, shall—

- (a) be ineligible for further employment under the Central Government or any State Government; or
- (b) not accept any commercial employment, for a period of [one year] from the date he ceases to hold such office:

[*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.]

(9) A vacancy caused to the office of the Chairperson or any other member shall be filled up within a period of three months from the date on which such vacancy occurs.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, ‘commercial employment’ means employment in any capacity under, or agency of, a

person engaged in trading, commercial, industrial or financial business in any field and includes also a director of a company or partner of a firm and it also includes setting up practice either independently or as partner of a firm or as an adviser or a consultant.

6. Powers of Chairperson and vice-Chairperson.—(1) The Chairperson shall have powers of general superintendence and directions in the conduct of the affairs of the Authority and he shall, in addition to presiding over the meetings of the Authority, exercise and discharge such powers and functions of the Authority and shall discharge such other powers and functions as may be prescribed.

(2) The Central Government may appoint one of the members to be a vice-Chairperson of the Authority who shall exercise and discharge such powers and functions of the Chairperson as may be prescribed or as may be delegated to him by the Authority.

7. Removal and suspension of member from office in certain circumstances.—(1) The Central Government may remove from office any member, 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 a member; or
- (d) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member, or
- (e) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest.

[(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. Meetings.—(1) The Authority shall meet at such times and places, and shall observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings (including quorum at such meeting) as may be provided by Regulations.

(2) The Chairperson or, if for any reason, he is unable to attend a meeting of the Authority, vice-Chairperson and in his absence, any other member chosen by the members present from amongst themselves at the meeting shall preside at the meeting.

(3) All questions which come up before any meeting of the Authority shall be decided by a majority vote of the members present and voting,

and in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairperson or in his absence, the person presiding, shall have a second or casting vote.

(4) The Authority may make regulations for the transaction of business at its meetings.

9. Vacancies, etc., not to invalidate proceedings of Authority.—

No act or proceeding of the Authority shall be invalid merely by reason of—

- (a) any vacancy in, or any defect in the constitution of, the Authority,
or
- (b) any defect in the appointment of a person acting as a member of the Authority; or
- (c) any irregularity in the procedure of the Authority not affecting the merits of the case.

10. Officers and other employees of Authority.—(1) The Authority may appoint officers and such other employees as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions under this Act.

(2) The salary and allowances payable to and the other conditions of service of the officers and other employees of the Authority appointed under sub-section (1) shall be such as may be [prescribed]:

[*Provided* that any regulation, in respect of the salary and allowances 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 of India (Amendment) Act, 2000, shall cease to have effect immediately on the notification of rules made under clause (ca) of sub-section (2) of section 35.]

CHAPTER III

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY

11. Functions of Authority.— [(1)Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), the functions of the Authority shall be to—

- (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 licence to a service provider;
 - (iii) revocation of licence for non-compliance of terms and conditions of licence;

- (iv) measures to facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth in such services;
 - (v) technological improvement 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 relatable 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 licence;
 - (ii) notwithstanding anything contained in the terms and conditions of the licence granted before the commencement of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 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 telecommunications service;
 - (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 (vii) 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 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 specified in the second proviso 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 recommendation 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 that Government. After receipt of further recommendation if any, the Central Government shall take a final decision.]

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), the Authority may, from time to time, by order, notify in the Official Gazette the rates at which the telecommunication services within India and outside India shall be provided under this Act including the rates at which messages shall be transmitted to any country outside India:

Provided that the Authority may notify different rates for different persons or class of persons for similar telecommunication services and where different rates are fixed as aforesaid the Authority shall record the reasons therefor.

(3) While discharging its functions [under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2)] the Authority shall not act against the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality.

(4) The Authority shall ensure transparency while exercising its powers and discharging its functions.

12. Powers of Authority to call for information, conduct investigations, etc.—(1) Where the Authority considers it expedient so to do, it may, by order in writing,—

- (a) call upon any service provider at any time to furnish in writing such information or explanation relating to its affairs as the Authority may require; or
- (b) appoint one or more persons to make an inquiry in relation to the affairs of any service provider; and
- (c) direct any of its officers or employees to inspect the books of account or other documents of any service provider.

(2) Where any inquiry in relation to the affairs of a service provider has been undertaken under sub-section (1),—

- (a) every officer of the Government Department, if such service provider is a Department of the Government;
- (b) every director, manager, Secretary or other officer, if such service provider is a company; or
- (c) every partner, manager, Secretary or other officer, if such service provider is a firm; or
- (d) every other person or body of persons who has had dealings in the course of business with any of the persons mentioned in clauses (b) and (c),

shall be found to produce before the Authority making the inquiry, all such books of account or other documents in his custody or power relating to, or having a bearing on the subject-matter of such inquiry and also to furnish to the Authority with any such statement or information relating thereto, as the case may, required of him within such time as may be specified.

(3) Every service provider shall maintain such books of account or other documents as may be prescribed.

(4) The Authority shall have the power to issue such directions to service providers as it may consider necessary for proper functioning by service providers.

13. Power of Authority to issue directions.—The Authority may, for the discharge of its functions under sub-section (1) of section 11, issue such directions from time to time to the service providers, as it may consider necessary:

[*Provided* that no direction under sub-section (4) of section 12 or under this section shall be issued except on the matters specified in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11.]

[CHAPTER IV

APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

14. Establishment of Appellate Tribunal.—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 the jurisdiction of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices 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 Disputes 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 7B 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.

14A. Application for settlement of disputes and appeals to Appellate Tribunal.—(1) The Central Government or a State

Government or a local authority or any person may make 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 the said period of thirty days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing 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 it 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 that 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 deposing of such application or appeal and make such orders as it thinks fit.

14B. Composition of Appellate Tribunal.—(1) The Appellate Tribunal shall consist of a Chairperson and not more than two Members to be appointed, by notification, by the Central Government.

(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 provisions 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.

14C. Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson and Members.—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, 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.

14D. Term of office.—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.

14E. Terms and conditions of service.—The salary and allowances payable to and the other terms and conditions of service of the

Chairperson and other 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.

14F. Vacancies.—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.

14G. Removal and resignation.—(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 clause (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. Staff of Appellate Tribunal.—(1) The Central Government shall provide the Appellate Tribunal with such officers and employees as it may deem fit.

(2) The Officers and employees of the Appellate Tribunal shall discharge their functions under the general superintendence of 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. Distribution of business among Benches.—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.

14J. Power of Chairperson to transfer cases.—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.

14K. Decision to be by majority.—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.

14L. Members, etc, to be public servants.—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 (45 of 1860).

14M. Transfer of pending cases—All applications, pending for adjudication of dispute 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 TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, shall continued 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 Act;

Provided further that all cases referred to in the first proviso shall be transferred by the Authority to the Appellate Tribunal immediately on its establishment under section 14.

14N. Transfer of Appeals.—(1) All appeals pending before the High Court immediately before the commencement of the TRAI (Amendment) Act, 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 transfers or from any earlier stage or *de novo* as the Appellate Tribunal may deem fit.

15. Civil Court not to have jurisdiction—No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceedings 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.

16. Procedures and Powers of Appellate Tribunal—(1) The Appellate Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice and, subject to the other provisions of this Act, the Appellate Tribunal shall have powers to regulate its own procedure.

(2) The Appellate Tribunal shall have, for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act, the same powers as are vested in a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), while trying a suit, in respect of the following matters, namely:

- (a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;
- (b) requiring the discovery and production of documents;
- (c) receiving evidence on affidavits;
- (d) subject to the provisions of sections 123 and 124 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872), requisitioning any public record or document or a copy of such record or document, from any office;
- (e) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses or documents;
- (f) reviewing its decisions;
- (g) dismissing an application for default or deciding it, *ex parte*;
- (h) setting aside any order of dismissal of any application for default or any order passed by it, *ex parte*; and
- (i) any other matter which may be prescribed.

(3) Every proceeding before the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of sections 193 and 228, and for the purposes of section 196 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860)

and the Appellate Tribunal shall be deemed to be a Civil Court for the purposes of section 195 and Chapter XXVI of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974).

17. Right to legal representation.—The applicant or appellant may either appear in person or authorise one or more Chartered Accountants or Company Secretaries or Cost Accountants or legal practitioners or any of its officers to present his or its case before the Appellate Tribunal.

Explanation— For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) 'Chartered Accountant' means a Chartered Accountant as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 (38 of 1949) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
- (b) 'Company Secretary' means a Company Secretary as defined in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 (56 of 1980) and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;
- (c) 'Cost Accountant' means a Cost Accountant as defined in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 (23 of 1959), and who has obtained a certificate of practice under sub-section (1) of section 6 of that Act;

(d) 'Legal Practitioner' means an Advocate, vakil or an attorney of any High court, and includes a pleader in practice.

18. Appeal to Supreme Court—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) or in any other law, an appeal shall lie against 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.

(2) No appeal shall lie against any decision or order made by the Appellate Tribunal with the consent of the parties.

(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:

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.

19. Orders passed by Appellate Tribunal to be executable as a decree—(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.

(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.

20. Penalty for wilful failure to comply with orders of Appellate Tribunal.—If any person wilfully 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 extend 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 which such default continues.]

CHAPTER V

FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

21. Grants by Central Government.—The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, make to the Authority grants of such sums of money as are required to pay salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and the members and the administrative expenses including the salaries, allowances and

pension payable to or in respect of officers and other employees of the Authority.

22. Fund.—(1) There shall be constituted a fund to be called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India General Fund and there shall be credited thereto-

- (a) all grants, fees and charges received by the Authority under this Act, and
- (b) all sums received by the Authority from such other sources as may be decided upon by the Central Government.

(2) The Fund shall be applied for meeting—

- (a) the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and members and the administrative expenses including the salaries, allowances and pension payable to or in respect of officers and other employees of the Authority; and
- (b) the expenses on objects and for purposes authorised by this Act.

23. Accounts and Audit.—(1) The Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

(2) The accounts of the Authority shall be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India at such intervals as may be specified by

him and any expenditure incurred in connection with such Auditor shall be payable by the Authority to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

[*Explanation*,—For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the decision 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.

(3) The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India and any other persons appointed by him in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Authority shall have the same rights and privileges and authority in connection with such audit as the Comptroller and Auditor General generally, has in connection with the audit of the Government accounts and, in particular, shall have the right to demand the production of books, accounts, connected vouchers and other documents and papers and to inspect any of the offices of the Authority.

(4) The accounts of the Authority as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India or any other person appointed by him in this behalf together with the audit report thereon shall be forwarded annually to the Central Government and that Government shall cause the same to be laid before each House of Parliament.

24. Furnishing of returns, etc. to the Central Government.—(1)

The Authority shall furnish to the Central Government at such time and in such form and manner as may be prescribed or as the Central Government may direct, such returns and statements and such particulars in regard to any proposed or existing programme for the promotion and development of the telecommunication services, as the Central Government from time to time, require.

(2) The Authority shall prepare once every year in such form and at such time as may be prescribed, an annual report giving a summary of its activities during the previous year and copies of the report shall be forwarded to the Central Government.

(3) A copy of the report received under sub-section (2) shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is received, before each House of Parliament.

CHAPTER VI

MISCELLANEOUS

25. Power of Central Government to issue directions.—(1) The Central Government may, from time to time, issue to the Authority such directions as it may think necessary in the interest of the sovereignty and

integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing provisions, the Authority shall, in exercise of its powers or the performance of its functions, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time:

Provided that the Authority shall, as far as practicable, be given an opportunity to express its views before any direction is given under this sub-section.

(3) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not shall be final.

26. Members, officers and employees of Authority to be public servants.—All members, officers and other employees of the Authority shall be deemed, when acting or purporting to act in pursuance of any of the provisions of this Act to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

27. Bar of Jurisdiction.—No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any *matter which the Authority is empowered by or under this Act to determine.*

28. Protection of action taken in good faith.—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Central Government or

the Authority or any officer of Central Government or any member, officer or other employees of the Authority for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder.

29. Penalty for contravention of directions of Authority.—If a person violates directions of the Authority, such person shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend 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 which the default continues.

30. Offences by companies.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who at the time the offence was committed was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he has exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to, any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section,—

- (a) ‘company’ means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) ‘director’, in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.

31. Offences by Government Departments.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by any Department of Government, the Head of the Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly unless he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) where an offence under this Act has been committed by a Department of

Government and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any officer, other than the Head of the Department, such officer shall also be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

32. Exemption from tax on wealth and income.—(1)

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Wealth-tax Act, 1957 (27 of 1957), the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), or any other enactment for the time being in force relating to tax on wealth, income, profits or gains, the Authority shall not be liable to pay wealth-tax, income-tax, or any other tax in respect of their wealth, income, profits or gains derived.

33. Delegation.—The Authority may, by general or special order in writing, delegate to any member, officer of the Authority or any other person subject to such conditions, if any, as may be specified in the order, such of its powers and functions under this Act (except the power to settle dispute under Chapter IV and to make regulation under section 36) as it may deem necessary.

34. Cognizance of offences.—(1) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder, save on a complaint made by the Authority.

(2) No court inferior to that of a Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or a Chief Judicial Magistrate of first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.

35. Power to make rules.—(1) The Central Government may, by notification make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:

- (a) the salary and allowances payable to and the other conditions of service of the Chairperson and members under sub-section (5) of section 5;
- [(aa) the allowances payable to the part-time members under sub-section (6A) of section 5;]
- (b) the powers and functions of the Chairperson under sub-section (1) of section 6.
- (c) The procedure for conducting an inquiry made under sub-section (2) of section 7.
- [(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;]

- (d) the category of books of account or other documents which are required to be maintained under sub-section (3) of section 12;
- [(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;]
- (e) the period within which an application is to be made under sub-section (1) of section 15;
- (f) the manner in which the accounts of the Authority shall be maintained under sub-section (1) of section 23;
- (g) the time within which and the form and manner in which returns and report are to be made to the Central Government under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 24;
- (h) Any other matter which is to be, or may be, prescribed, or in respect of which provision is to be made, by rules.

36. Power to make regulations.—(1) The Authority may, by notification, make regulations consistent with this Act and the rules made thereunder to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:

(a) the times and places of meetings of the Authority and the procedure to be followed at such meetings under sub-section (1) of section 8, including quorum necessary for the transaction of business;

(b) the transaction of business at the meetings of the Authority under sub-section (4) of section 8;

[(c) * * *]

(d) matters in respect of which register is to be maintained by the Authority [under sub-clause (vii) of clause (b)] of sub-section (1) of section 1];

(e) levy of fee and lay down such other requirements on fulfilment of which a copy of register may be obtained [under sub-clause (viii) of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11];

(f) levy of fees and other charges [under clause (c)] of sub-section (1) of section 11;

37. Rules and regulations to be laid before Parliament.—Every rule and every regulation made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule and regulation or both Houses agree that the rule or regulation should not be made, the rule or regulation shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule or regulation.

38. Application of certain laws.—The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885) and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 (17 of 1933) and, in particular, nothing in this Act shall affect any jurisdiction, powers and functions required to be exercised or performed by the Telegraph Authority in relation to any area falling within the jurisdiction of such Authority.

39. Power to remove difficulties.—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by

order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

40. Repeal and saving.—(1) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance, 1997 (Ordinance 11 of 1997) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

TECHNOLOGY

(Department of Telecommunications)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 9th January, 2004

S.O. 44(E). - In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to clause (k) of Sub-section (1) of Section 2 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997), the Central Government hereby notifies the broadcasting services and cable services to be telecommunication service.

[F.No. 13-1/2004 - Restg.]

P.K. TIWARI, Dy. Secy (Restg.)

ORDER

New Delhi, the 9th January, 2004

S.O. 45(E). - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (d) of Sub-clause (1) of Section 11 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997) (hereinafter referred to as the Act), the Central Government hereby entrusts the following additional functions to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, established under Sub-section (1)

of Section 3 of the Act, in respect of broadcasting services and cable services, namely:-

(1) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in clause (a) of Sub-section (1) of Section 11 of the Act, to make recommendation regarding -

(a) the terms and conditions on which the "Addressable systems" shall be provided to customers Explanation - For the purposes of this clause, "addressable system" with its grammatical variation, means an electronic device or more than one electronic devices put in an integrated system through which signals of cable television network can be sent in encrypted or unencrypted form, which can be decoded by the device or devices at the premises of the subscriber within the limits of authorisation made, on the choice and request of such subscriber, by the cable operator for that purpose to the subscriber,

(b) the parameters for regulating maximum time for advertisements in pay channels as well as other channels.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Sub-section(2) of Section 11 of the Act, also to specify standard norms for, and periodicity of, revision of rates of pay channels, including interim measures.

[F.No. 13-1/2004 - Restg.]

THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT, 1885

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THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT, 1885

AN

ACT

to amend the law relating to Telegraphs in India

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law relating to telegraphs in India;

It is hereby enacted as follows:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, local extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

(2) It extends to the whole of India [* * * * *].

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of October 1885.

2. Repeal and savings.— [* * * * *]

3. Definitions.—In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

[(1) 'Fund' means the Universal Service Obligation Fund established under sub-section (1) of section 9A.

(1A) 'Universal Service Obligation' means the obligation to provide access to basic telegraph services to people in the rural and remote areas at affordable and reasonable prices']

[[[1AA)] 'telegraph' means any appliance, instrument, material or apparatus used or capable of use for transmission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds or intelligence of any nature by wire, visual or other electro-magnetic emissions, radio waves or Hertzian waves, galvanic, electric or magnetic means.

Explanation.—'Radio waves' or 'Hertzian waves' means electro-magnetic waves of frequencies lower than 3,000 giga-cycles per second propagated in space without artificial guide;]

(2) 'telegraph officer' means any person employed either permanently or temporarily in connection with a telegraph established, maintained or worked by [the Central Government] or by a person licensed under this Act;

(3) 'message' means any communication sent by telegraph, or given to telegraph officer to be sent by telegraph or to be delivered;

(4) 'telegraph line' means a wire or wires used for the purpose of a telegraph, with any casing, coating, tube or pipe enclosing the same, and any appliances and apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of fixing or insulating the same;

(5) 'post' means a post, pole, standard, stay, strut or other above ground contrivance for carrying, suspending or supporting a telegraph line;

(6) 'telegraph authority' means the Director General of [Posts and Telegraphs], and includes any officer empowered by him to perform all or any of the functions of the telegraph authority under this Act;

(7) 'local authority' means any municipal committee, district board, body of port commissioners or other authority legally entitled to, or entrusted by' the Central or any State Government] with, the control, management of any municipal or local fund.

PART II

PRIVILEGES AND POWERS OF THE GOVERNMENT

4. Exclusive privilege in respect of telegraphs, and power to grant licenses.— [(1)] Within [India], the Central Government shall have exclusive privilege of establishing, maintaining and working telegraphs:

Provided that the Central Government may grant a license, on such conditions and in consideration of such payments as it thinks fit, to any person to establish, maintain or work a telegraph within any part of [India]:

[*Provided further* that the Central Government may, by rules made under this Act and published in the Official Gazette, permit, subject to such restrictions and conditions as it thinks fit, the establishment, maintenance and working—

- (a) of wireless telegraphs on ships within Indian territorial waters [and on aircraft within or above [India], or Indian territorial waters], and
- (b) of telegraphs other than wireless telegraphs within any part of [India].

[*Explanation*—The payments made for the grant of a licence under this sub-section shall include such sum attributable to the Universal Service Obligation as may be determined by the Central Government after considering the recommendations made in this behalf by the Telegraph Regulatory Authority of India established under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Telegraph Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997).]

[(2) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, delegate to the telegraph authority all or any of its powers under the first proviso to sub-section (1).

The exercise by the telegraph authority of any power so delegated shall be subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Central Government may, by the notification, think fit to impose.]

[5. Power for Government to take possession of licensed telegraphs and to order interception of messages.—(1) On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorized in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do, take temporary possession (for so long as the public emergency exists or the interest of the public safety requires the taking of such action) of any telegraph established, maintained or worked by any person licensed under this Act.

(2) On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety, the Central Government or a State Government or any officer specially authorised in this behalf by the Central Government or a State Government may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence, for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, direct that any message or class of messages to or from any person or class of persons, or relating to any particular subject, brought for transmission by or transmitted or received by any telegraph, shall not be transmitted, or shall be intercepted or

detained, or shall be disclosed to the Government making the order or an officer thereof mentioned in the order:

Provided that press messages intended to be published in India of correspondents accredited to the Central Government or a State Government shall not be intercepted or detained, unless their transmission has been prohibited under this sub-section.

6. Power to establish telegraph on land of Railway Company.—

Any Railway company, on being required so to do by the Central Government, shall permit the Government to establish and maintain a telegraph upon any part of the land of the company, and shall give every reasonable facility for working the same.

[6A. Power to notify rates for transmission of messages to countries outside India.—(1) The Central Government may, from time to time, by order, notify the rates at which, and the other conditions and restrictions subject to which messages shall be transmitted to any country outside India.

(2) In notifying the rates under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall have due regard to all or any of the following factors, namely:

- (a) the rates for the time being in force, for transmission of messages, in countries outside India;

- (b) the foreign exchange rates for the time being in force;
- (c) the rates for the time being in force for transmission of messages within India;
- (d) such other relevant factors as the Central Government may think fit in the circumstances of the case.]

7. Power to make rules for the conduct of telegraphs—(1) The Central Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act for the conduct of all or any telegraphs established, maintained or worked by the Government or by persons licensed under this Act.

(2) Rules under this section may provide for all or any of the following among other matters, that is to say:

- (a) the rates at which, and the other conditions and restrictions subject to which, messages shall be transmitted [within India];
- (b) the precautions to be taken for preventing the improper interception or disclosure of messages;
- (c) the period for which, and the conditions subject to which, telegrams and other documents belonging to, or being in the custody of, telegraph officers shall be preserved;
- (d) the fees to be charged for searching for telegrams or other documents in the custody of any telegraph officer;

[(e) the conditions and restrictions subject to which any telegraph line, appliance of apparatus for telegraphic communication shall be established, maintained, worked, repaired, transferred, shifted, withdrawn or disconnected;]

[(ee) the charges in respect of any application for providing any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus;]

[(eea) the manner in which the Fund may be administered;

(eeb) the criteria based on which sums may be released.]

(f) the charges in respect of –

(i) the establishment, maintenance, working, repair, transfer or shifting of any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus;

(ii) the services of operators operating such line, appliance or apparatus;

(g) the matters in connection with the transition from a system whereunder rights and obligations relating to the establishment, maintenance, working repair, transfer or shifting of any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus for telegraphic communication attach by virtue of any agreement to a system whereunder such rights and obligations attach by virtue of rules made under this section;

(h) the time at which, the manner in which, the conditions under which and the persons by whom the rates, charges and fees

mentioned in this sub-section shall be paid and the furnishing of security for the payment of such rates, charges and fees;

(i) the payment of compensation to the Central Government for any loss incurred in connection with the provision of any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus for the benefit of any person –

(a) where the line, appliance or apparatus is, after it has been connected for use, given up by that person before the expiration of the period fixed by these rules, or

(b) where the work done for the purpose of providing the line, appliance or apparatus is, before it is connected for use, rendered abortive by some act or omission on the part of that person;

(j) the principles according to which and the authority by whom the compensation referred to in clause (i) shall be assessed;

[(j) the qualifications to be possessed and the examinations, if any, to be passed by the persons employed for the establishment, maintenance or working of any telegraph and the fees to be charged for admission to such examinations;] and

(k) any other matter for which provision is necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of all or any telegraphs under this Act.

(3) When making rules for the conduct of any telegraph established, maintained or worked by any person licensed under this Act, the Central Government may by the rules prescribe fines for any breach of the same:

Provided that the fines so prescribed shall not exceed the following limits, namely:

- (i) When the person licensed under this Act is punishable for the breach, one thousand rupees, and in the case of a continuing breach, a further fine of two hundred rupees for every day after the first during the whole or any part of which the breach continues.
- (ii) When a servant of the person so licensed, or any other person, is punishable for the breach, one-fourth of the amounts specified in clause (i).

(4) Nothing in this section or in any rules made hereunder shall be construed as—

- (a) precluding the Central Government from entering into an agreement with a person for the establishment, maintenance and working by that Government on terms and conditions specified in the agreement of any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus for the purpose of affording means of telegraphic communication,

where having regard to the number of the lines, appliance or apparatus required by that person for telegraphic communication, it is necessary or expedient to enter into such agreement with him, or

- (b) subjecting the Central Government to any obligation to provide any telegraph line appliance or apparatus for the purpose of affording means of telegraphic communication.

[(5) Every rule made under this section shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days [which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid] both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.]

[7A. Saving of existing agreements.]—Nothing in section 7 shall authorise the making of any rules determining any agreement entered into by the Central Government with any person before the

commencement of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1957 (47 of 1957), relating to the establishment, maintenance or working of any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus for telegraphic communication; and all rights and obligations thereunder relating to such establishment, maintenance or working shall be determined in accordance with the terms and conditions of such agreement.

7B. Arbitration of disputes.—(1) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, if any dispute concerning any telegraph line, appliance or apparatus arises between the telegraph authority and the person for whose benefit the line, appliance or apparatus is, or has been provided, the dispute shall be determined by arbitration and shall, for the purposes of such determination, be referred to an arbitrator appointed by the Central Government either specially for the determination of that dispute or generally for the determination of disputes under this section.

(2) The award of the arbitrator appointed under sub-section (1) shall be conclusive between the parties to the dispute and shall not be questioned in any court.]

8. Revocation of licenses.—The Central Government may, at any time, revoke any license granted under section 4, on the breach of any of the conditions therein contained, or in default of payment of any consideration payable thereunder.

9. Government not responsible for loss or damage.—The Government shall not be responsible for any loss or damage which may occur in consequence of any telegraph officer failing in his duty with respect to the receipt, transmission or delivery of any message; and no such officer shall be responsible for any such loss or damage, unless he causes the same negligently, maliciously or fraudulently.

[PART IIA]

UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATION FUND

9A. Establishment of Universal Service Obligation Fund.— (1) On and from the commencement of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003, there shall be deemed to have been established, for the purposes of this Act, a fund to be called the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

(2) The Fund shall be under the control of the Central Government and there shall be credited thereto —

(a) any sums of money paid under section 9B;

(b) any grants and loans made by the Central Government under section 9C.

(3) The balance to the credit of the Fund shall not lapse at the end of the financial year.

9B. Crediting of sums to Consolidated Fund of India.—The sums of money received towards the Universal Service Obligation under section 4 shall first be credited to the Consolidated Fund of India, and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf so provides, credit such proceeds to the Fund from time to time for being utilised exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

9C. Grants and loans by Central Government.— The Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, credit by way of grants and loans such sums of money as that Government may consider necessary in the Fund.

9D. Administration and utilisation of Fund.—(1) The Central Government shall have the power to administer the Fund in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(2) The Fund shall be utilised exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

(3) The Central Government shall be responsible for the co-ordination and ensuring timely utilisation and release of sums in accordance with the criteria as may be prescribed by rules made under the Act.]

PART III

POWER TO PLACE TELEGRAPH LINES AND POSTS

10. Power for telegraph authority to place and maintain telegraph lines and posts.—The telegraph authority may, from time to time, place and maintain a telegraph line under, over, along, or across, and posts in or upon any immovable property:

Provided that—

- (a) the telegraph authority shall not exercise the powers conferred by this section except for the purposes of a telegraph established or maintained by the [Central Government], or to be so established or maintained;
- (b) the [Central Government] shall not acquire any right other than that of user only in the property under, over, along, across in or

upon which the telegraph authority places any telegraph line or post; and

- (c) except as hereinafter provided, the telegraph authority shall not exercise those powers in respect of any property vested in or under the control or management of any local authority, without the permission of that authority; and
- (d) in the exercise of the powers conferred by this section, the telegraph authority shall do as little damage as possible, and, when it has exercised those powers in respect of any property other than that referred to in clause (c), shall pay full compensation to all persons interested for any damage sustained by them by reason of the exercise of those powers.

11. Power to enter on property in order to repair or remove telegraph lines or posts.—The telegraph authority may, at any time, for the purpose of examining, repairing, altering or removing any telegraph line or post, enter on the property under, over, along, across, in or upon which the line or post has been placed.

**PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO PROPERTY VESTED IN OR
UNDER THE CONTROL OR MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES**

12. Power for local authority to give permission under section 10, clause (c), subject to conditions.—Any permission given by a local authority under section 10, clause (c), may be given subject to such reasonable conditions as that authority thinks fit to impose, as to the payment of any expenses to which the authority will necessarily be put in consequence of the exercise of the powers conferred by that section, or as to the time or mode of execution of any work, or as to any other thing connected with or relative to any work undertaken by the telegraph authority under those powers.

13. Power for local authority to require removal or alteration of telegraph line or post.—When, under the foregoing provisions of this Act, a telegraph line or post has been placed by the telegraph authority under, over, along, across, in or upon any property vested in or under the control or management of a local authority, and the local authority, having regard to circumstances which have arisen since the telegraph line or post was so placed, considers it expedient that it should be removed or that its position should be altered, the local authority may require the telegraph authority to remove it or alter its position, as the case may be.

14. Power to alter position of gas or water pipes or drains.—The telegraph authority may, for the purpose of exercising the powers conferred upon it by this Act in respect of any property vested in or under the control or management of a local authority, alter the position thereunder of any pipe (not being a main) for the supply of gas or water, or of any drain (not being a main drain):

Provided that—

- (a) when the telegraph authority desires to alter the position of any such pipe or drain it shall give reasonable notice of its intention to do so, specifying the time at which it will begin to do so, to the local authority, and, when the pipe or drain is not under the control of the local authority, to the person under whose control the pipe or drain is;
- (b) a local authority or person receiving notice under clause (a) may send a person to superintend the work, and the telegraph authority shall execute the work to the reasonable satisfaction of the person so sent.

15. Disputes between telegraph authority and local authority.—

(1) If any dispute arises between the telegraph authority and a local authority in consequence of the local authority refusing the permission referred to in section 10, clause (c), or prescribing any condition under

section 12, or in consequence of the telegraph authority omitting to comply with a requisition made under section 13, or otherwise in respect of the exercise of the powers conferred by this Act, it shall be determined by such officer as the [Central Government] may appoint either generally or specially in this behalf.

(2) An appeal from the determination of the officer so appointed shall lie to the [Central Government]; and the order of the [Central Government] shall be final.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO OTHER PROPERTY

16. Exercise of powers conferred by section 10, and disputes as to compensation, in case of property other than that of a local authority.—(1) If the exercise of the powers mentioned in section 10 in respect of property referred to in clause (d) of that section is resisted or obstructed, the District Magistrate may, in his discretion, order that the telegraph authority shall be permitted to exercise them.

(2) If, after the making of an order under sub section (1), any person resists the exercise of those powers, or, having control over the property,

does not give all facilities for this being exercised, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).

(3) If any dispute arises concerning the sufficiency of the compensation to be paid under section 10, clause (d), it shall, on application for that purpose by either of the disputing parties to the District Judge within whose jurisdiction the property is situate, be determined by him.

(4) If any dispute arises as to the persons entitled to receive compensation, or as to the proportions in which the persons interested are entitled to share in it, the telegraph authority may pay into the Court of the District Judge such amount as he deems sufficient or, where all the disputing parties have in writing admitted the amount tendered to be sufficient or the amount has been determined under sub-section (3), that amount; and the District Judge, after giving notice to the parties and hearing such of them as desire to be heard, shall determine the persons entitled to receive the compensation or, as the case may be, the proportions in which the persons interested are entitled to share in it.

(5) Every determination of a dispute by a District Judge under sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) shall be final:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall affect the right of any person to recover by suit the whole or any part of any compensation paid by the telegraph authority, from the person who has received the same.

17. Removal or alteration of telegraph line or post on property other than that of a local authority.—(1) When, under the foregoing provisions of this Act, a telegraph line or post has been placed by the telegraph authority under, over, along, across, in or upon any property, not being property vested in or under the control or management of a local authority, and any person entitled to do so desires to deal with that property in such a manner as to render it necessary or convenient that the telegraph line or post should be removed to another part thereof or to a higher or lower level or altered in form, he may require the telegraph authority to remove or alter the line or post accordingly:

Provided that, if compensation has been paid under section 10, clause (d), he shall, when making the requisition, tender to the telegraph authority the amount requisite to defray the expense of the removal or alteration, or half of the amount paid as compensation, whichever may be the smaller sum.

(2) If the telegraph authority omits to comply with the requisition, the person making it may apply to the District Magistrate within whose jurisdiction the property is situated to order the removal or alteration.

(3) A District Magistrate receiving an application under sub-section (2) may, in his discretion reject the same or make an order, absolutely or subject to conditions, for the removal of the telegraph line or post to any other part of the property or to higher or lower level or for the alteration of its form; and the order so made shall be final.,

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PROPERTY

18. Removal of trees interrupting telegraphic communication.—

(1) If any tree standing or lying near a telegraph line interrupts, or is likely to interrupt, telegraphic communication, a Magistrate of the first or second class may, on the application of the telegraph authority, cause the tree to be removed or dealt with in such other way as he deems fit.

(2) When disposing of an application under sub-section (1), the Magistrate shall, in the case of any tree in existence before the telegraph line was placed, award to the persons interested in the tree such compensation as he thinks reasonable, and the shall be final.

19. Telegraph lines and posts placed before passing of this Act.—Every telegraph line or post placed before the passing of this Act under, over, along, across, in or upon any property, for the purposes of a telegraph established or maintained by the [Central Government], shall

be deemed to have been placed in exercise of the powers conferred by, and after observance of all the requirements of, this Act.

[19A. Person exercising legal right likely to damage telegraph or interfere with telegraphic communication to give notice.]—(1) Any person desiring to deal in the legal exercise of a right with any property in such a manner as is likely to cause damage to a telegraph line or post which has been duly placed in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or to interrupt or interfere with telegraphic communication, shall give not less than one month's notice in writing of the intended exercise of such right to the telegraph authority, or to any telegraph officer whom the telegraph authority may empower in this behalf.

(2) If any such person without having complied with the provisions of sub-section (1) deals with any property in such a manner as is likely to cause damage to any telegraph line or post, or to interrupt or interfere with telegraphic communication, a Magistrate of the first or second class may, on the application of the telegraph authority, order such person to abstain from dealing with such property in such manner for a period not exceeding one month from the date of his order and forthwith to take such action with regard to such property as may be in the opinion of the Magistrate necessary to remedy or prevent such damage, interruption or interference during such period.

(3) A person dealing with any property in the manner referred to in sub-section (1) with the *bona fide* intention of averting imminent danger of personal injury to himself or any other human being shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of the said sub-section, if he gives such notice of the intended exercise of the right as is in the circumstances possible, or where no such previous notice can be given without incurring the imminent danger referred to above, if he forthwith gives notice of the actual exercise of such right to the authority of officer specified in the said sub-section.

19B. Power to confer upon licensee powers of telegraph authority under this Part.—The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, confer upon any licensee under section 4, in respect of the extent of his license and subject to any conditions and restrictions which the Central Government may think fit to impose and to the provisions of this Part, all or any of the powers which the telegraph authority possesses under this Part with regard to a telegraph established or maintained by the Government or to be so established or maintained:

Provided that the notice prescribed in section 19A shall always be given to the telegraph authority or officer empowered to receive notice under section 19A(1).]

PART IV
PENALTIES

20. Establishing, maintaining or working unauthorised telegraph.—(1) If any person establishes, maintains or works a telegraph within [India] in contravention of the provisions of section 4 or otherwise than as permitted by rules made under that section, he shall be punished, if the telegraph is a wireless telegraph, with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both, and in any other case, with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (5 of 1898), offences under this section in respect of a wireless telegraph shall, for the purposes of the said Code, be bailable and non-cognizable.

(3) When any person is convicted of an offence punishable under this section, the Court before which he is convicted may direct that the telegraph in respect of which the offence has been committed, or any part of such telegraph, be forfeited to Government.

[20A. Breach of condition of license.—If the holder of a license granted under section 4 contravenes any condition contained in his

license, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, and with a further fine which may extend to five hundred rupees for every week during which the breach of the condition continues.]

21. Using unauthorised telegraphs.—If any person, knowing or having reason to believe that a telegraph has been established or is maintained or worked in contravention of this Act, transmits or receives any message by such telegraph, or performs any service incidental thereto, or delivers any message for transmission by such telegraph or accepts delivery of any message sent thereby, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

22. Opposing establishment of telegraphs on railway land.—If a Railway Company, or an officer of a Railway Company, neglects or refuses to comply with the provisions of section 6, it or he shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees for every day during which the neglect or refusal continues.

23. Intrusion into signal-room, trespass in telegraph office or obstruction.—If any person—

- (a) without permission of competent authority, enters the signal-room of a telegraph office of the Government, or of a person licensed under this Act, or

- (b) enters a fenced enclosure round such a telegraph office in contravention of any rule or notice not to do so, or
- (c) refuses to quit such room or enclosure on being requested to do so by any officer or servant employed therein, or
- (d) wilfully obstructs or impedes any such officer or servant in the performance of his duty,

he shall be punished with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

24. Unlawfully attempting to learn the contents of messages.—If any person does any of the acts mentioned in section 23 with the intention of unlawfully learning the contents of any message, or of committing any offence punishable under this Act, he may (in addition to the fine with which he is punishable under section 23) be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year.

25. Intentionally damaging or tampering with telegraphs.—If any person, intending—

- (a) to prevent or obstruct the transmission or delivery of any message, or
- (b) to intercept or to acquaint himself with the contents of any message, or
- (c) to commit mischief,

damages, removes, tampers with or touches any battery, machinery, telegraph line, post or other thing whatever, being part of or used in or about any telegraph or in the working thereof,

he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine or with both.

[25A. Injury to or interference with a telegraph line or post.—If, in any case not provided for by section 25, any person deals with any property and thereby wilfully or negligently damages any telegraph line or post duly placed on such property in accordance with the provisions of this Act, he shall be liable to pay the telegraph authority such expenses (if any) as may be incurred in making good such damage, and shall also, if the telegraphic communication is by reason of the damage so caused interrupted, be punishable with a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply where such damage or interruption is caused by a person dealing with any property in the legal exercise of a right if he has complied with the provisions of section 19A(1).]

26. Telegraph officer or other official making away with or altering, or unlawfully intercepting or disclosing messages, or divulging purport of signals.—If any telegraph officer, or any person,

not being a telegraph officer, but having official duties connected with any office which is used as a telegraph office—

- (a) wilfully, secrets, makes away with or alters any message which he has received for transmission or delivery, or
- (b) wilfully, and otherwise than in obedience to an order of the Central Government or of a State Government, or of an officer specially authorised [by the Central or a State Government] to make the order, omits to transmit, or intercepts or detains, any message or any part thereof, or otherwise than in pursuance of his official duty or in obedience to the direction of a competent Court, discloses the contents or any part of the contents of any message, to any person not entitled to receive the same, or
- (c) divulges the purport of any telegraphic signal to any person not entitled to become acquainted with the same,

he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

27. Telegraph officer fraudulently sending messages without payment. —If any telegraph officer transmits by telegraph any message on which the charge prescribed by the [Central Government], or by a person licensed under this Act, as the case may be, has not been paid, intending thereby to defraud the [Central Government], or that person,

he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

28. Misconduct.—If any telegraph officer, or any person not being a telegraph officer but having official duties connected with any office which is used as a telegraph office is guilty of any Act of drunkenness, carelessness or other misconduct whereby the correct transmission or the delivery of any message is impeded or delayed or if any telegraph officer loiters or delays in the transmission or delivery of any message, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, or with both.

29. [Sending fabricated messages].—Repealed by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1971 (33 of 1971), section 4.

[29A. Penalty.—If any person, without due authority, —

- (a) makes or issues any document of a nature reasonably calculated to cause it to be believed that the document has been issued by, or under the authority of, the Director-General of [Posts and Telegraphs], or
- (b) makes on any document any mark in imitation of, or similar to, or purporting to be, any stamp or mark of any Telegraph Office under the Director General of [Posts and Telegraphs], or a mark

of a nature reasonably calculated to cause it to be believed that the documents so marked has been issued by, or under the authority of, the Director-General of [Posts and Telegraphs], he shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.]

30. Retaining a message delivered by mistake.—If any person fraudulently retains, or wilfully secretes, makes away with or detains a message which ought to have been delivered to some other person, or, being required by a telegraph officer to deliver up any such message, neglects or refuses to do so, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

31. Bribery.—A telegraph officer shall be deemed a public servant within the meaning of sections 161, 162, 163, 164 and 165 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860); and in the definition of 'legal remuneration' contained in the said section 161, the word 'Government' shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to include a person licensed under this Act.

32. Attempts to commit offences.—Whoever attempts to commit any offence punishable under this Act shall be punished with the punishment herein provided for the offence.

PART V

SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISION

33. Power to employ additional police in places where mischief to telegraphs is repeatedly committed.—(1) Whenever it appears to the State Government that any act causing or likely to cause wrongful damage to any telegraph is repeatedly and maliciously committed in any place, and that the employment of an additional police force in that place is thereby rendered necessary, the State Government may send such additional police force as it thinks fit to the place, and employ the same therein so long as, in the opinion of that Government, the necessity of doing so continues.

(2) The inhabitants of the place shall be charged with the cost of the additional police force, and the District Magistrate shall, subject to the orders of the State Government, assess the proportion in which the cost shall be paid by the inhabitants according to his judgment of their respective means.

(3) All moneys payable under sub-section (2) shall be recoverable either under the warrant of a Magistrate by distress and sale of the movable property of the defaulter within the local limits of his jurisdiction, or by suit in any competent Court.

(4) The State Government may, by order in writing, define the limits of any place for the purposes of this section.

[34. Application of Act to Presidency-towns.—(1) This Act, in its application to the Presidency-towns, shall be read as if for the words ‘District Magistrate’ in section 16, sub-section (1), and section 17, sub-sections (2) and (3), for the words ‘Magistrate of the first or second class’ in section 18, sub-section (1), [and section 19A, sub-section (2),] and for the word ‘Magistrate’ in section 18 sub-section (2), there had been enacted the words ‘Commissioner of Police’, and for the ‘District Judge’ in section 16, sub-sections (3), (4) and (5), the words ‘Chief Judge of the Court of Small Causes’.

[(2) Omitted].

(3) The fee in respect of an application to the Chief Judge of a Presidency Court of Small Causes under sub-section (3) of section 16 shall be the same as would be payable under the Court-fees Act, 1870 (7 of 1870), in respect of such an application to a District Judge beyond the limits of a Presidency-town, and fees for summonses and other processes in proceedings before the Chief Judge under sub-section (3) or sub-section (4) of that section shall be payable according to the scale set forth in the Fourth Schedule to the Presidency Small Causes Courts Act, 1882.

35. Reference to certain laws of Part B States.—[Repealed by Part B States (Laws) Act, 1951 (Act 3 of 1951), section 3 and Schedule.]

THE INDIAN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT, 1933

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THE INDIAN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY ACT, 1933

AN

ACT

to regulate the possession of wireless telegraphy apparatus.

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the possession of wireless telegraphy apparatus in India; it is hereby enacted as follows:

1. Short title, extent and commencement.—(1) This Act may be called the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933.

(2) It extends to the whole of India [* * * * *].

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions.—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

[(1) 'wireless communication' means any transmission, omission or reception of signs, signals, writing, images and sounds, or intelligence of any nature by means of electricity, magnetism, or Radio waves or Hertzian waves, without the use of wires or other continuous electrical conductors between the transmitting and the receiving apparatus;

Explanation.—‘Radio waves’ or ‘Hertzian waves’ means electromagnetic waves of frequencies lower than 3,000 gigacycles per second propagated in space without artificial guide;]

(2) ‘wireless telegraphy apparatus’ means any apparatus, appliance, instrument or material used or capable of use in wireless communication, and includes any article determined by rule made under section 10 to be wireless telegraphy apparatus, but does not include any such apparatus, appliance, instrument or material commonly used for other electrical purposes, unless it has been specially designed or adapted for wireless communication or forms part of some apparatus, appliance, instrument or material specially so designed or adapted, nor any article determined by rule made under section 10 not to be wireless telegraphy apparatus;

[(2A) ‘wireless transmitter’ means any apparatus, appliance, instrument or material used or capable of use for transmission or omission of wireless communication;]

(3) ‘prescribed’ means prescribed by rules made under section 10.

3. Prohibition of possession of wireless telegraphy apparatus without licence.—Save as provided by section 4, no person shall

possess wireless telegraphy apparatus except under and in accordance with a license issued under this Act.

4. Power of Central Government to exempt persons from provisions of the Act.—The Central Government may by rules made under this Act exempt any person or any class of persons from the provisions of this Act either generally or subject to prescribed conditions, or in respect of specified wireless telegraphy apparatus.

5. Licenses.—The telegraph authority constituted under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), shall be the authority competent to issue licenses to possess wireless telegraphy apparatus under this Act, and may issue licenses in such manner, on such conditions and subject to such payments, as may be prescribed.

6. Offence and penalty.—(1) Whoever possesses any [wireless telegraphy apparatus, other than a wireless transmitter,] in contravention of the provisions of section 3 shall be punished, in the case of the first offence, with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, and, in the case of a second or subsequent offence, with fine which may extend to two hundred and fifty rupees.

[(1A) Whoever possesses any wireless transmitter in contravention of the provisions of section 3 shall be punished with imprisonment which

may extend to three years, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees or with both.]

(2) For the purposes of this section, a court may presume that a person possesses wireless telegraphy apparatus if such apparatus is under his ostensible charge, or is located in any premises or place over which he has effective control.

(3) If in the trial of an offence under this section the accused is convicted, the court shall decide whether any apparatus in respect of which an offence has been committed should be confiscated, and, if it so decides, may order confiscation accordingly.

[7. Power of search.—Any officer specially empowered by the Central Government in this behalf may search any building, vessel or place in which he has reason to believe that any wireless telegraphy apparatus, in respect of which an offence punishable under section 6 has been committed, is kept or concealed, and take possession thereof.]

8. Apparatus confiscated or having no owner to be the property of Central Government.—All wireless telegraphy apparatus confiscated under the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 6, and all wireless telegraphy apparatus having no ostensible owner shall be the property of the Central Government.

9. Power of Court to direct payment of fines to prescribed authority.—Ceased to have effect by A.O., 1937 and repealed by the Repealing and Amending Act, 1940 (32 of 1940), section 2 and Schedule I.

10. Power of Central Government to make rules.—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

(i) determining that any article or class of article shall be or shall not be wireless telegraphy apparatus for the purposes of this Act;

(ii) the exemption of persons or classes of persons under section 4 from the provisions of this Act;

(iii) the manner of and the conditions governing the issue, renewal, suspension and cancellation of licenses, the form of licenses and the payments to be made for the issue and renewal of licenses;

(iv) the maintenance of records containing details of the acquisition and disposal by sale or otherwise of wireless telegraphy apparatus possessed by dealers in wireless telegraphy apparatus;

(v) the conditions governing the sale of wireless telegraphy apparatus by dealers in and manufacturers of such apparatus.

(3) In making a rule under this section the Central Government may direct that a breach of it shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees.

[(4) Every rule made under this section shall be laid as soon as may be after it is made before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of 30 days which may be comprised in one session or [in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid], both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.]

11. Savings of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.—Nothing in this Act contained shall authorise the doing of anything prohibited under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (13 of 1885), and no license issued under this Act shall authorise any person to do anything for the doing of which

a license or permission under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, is necessary.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 [(1997) 4 Comp LJ 33 (St.)], incorporating the amendments made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance/ Act, 2000 [(2005) 2 Comp LJ 85 (St.)].

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following word 'Government' vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following sub-section (3) vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

‘(3) The Authority shall consist of a Chairperson, and not less than two, but not exceeding four members, to be appointed by the Central Government.’

Substituted for the following section 4 vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

‘4. *Qualification for appointment of Chairperson and other members.*—(1) The Chairperson shall be a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or who is or has been Chief Justice of a High Court.

(2) A Member shall be a person who has special knowledge of, any professional experience, in telecommunication, industry, finance, accountancy, law, management and 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 three years.’

Substituted for the following sub-sections (2) and (3) vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

‘(2) The Chairperson shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

(3) A member shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.’

Substituted for the following words ‘selection as member’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following words ‘joining as a member’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following words ‘other members’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

The words, brackets and figure ‘or sub-section (3)’ shall be omitted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following words ‘other members’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following words 'two years' vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following sub-sections (2) and (3) vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

'(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), no member shall be removed from his office on the ground specified in clause (d) or clause (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 prescribed in this behalf, reported that the member ought on such ground or grounds to be removed.

(3) The Central Government may suspend from office a member 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.'

Substituted for the following word 'determined by regulations' vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following sub-section (1) vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the functions of the Authority shall be to—

- (a) recommend the need and timing for introduction of new service provider;
- (b) recommend the terms and conditions of licence to a service provider;
- (c) ensure technical compatibility and effective inter-connection between different service providers;
- (d) regulate arrangement amongst service providers of sharing their revenue derived from providing telecommunication services;
- (e) ensure compliance of terms and conditions of licence;
- (f) recommend revocation of licence for non-compliance of terms and conditions of licence;

- (g) laydown and ensure the time period for providing local and long distance circuits of telecommunication between different service providers;
- (h) facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth in such services;
- (i) protect the interest of the consumers of telecommunication service;
- (j) monitor the quality of service and conduct the periodical survey of such services provided by the service providers;
- (k) inspect the equipment used in the network and recommend the type of equipment to be used by the service providers;
- (l) maintain register of interconnect agreements and of all such other matters as may be provided in the Regulations;
- (m) keep register maintained under clause (l) open for inspection to any member of public on payment of such fee and compliance of such other requirements as may be provided in the Regulations;
- (n) settle disputes between service providers;
- (o) render advice to the Central Government in the matters relating to the development of telecommunication technology and any other matter relating to telecommunication industry in general;
- (p) levy fees and other charges at such rates and in respect of such services as may be determined by regulations;
- (q) ensure effective compliance of universal service obligations;
- (r) 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.

Substituted for the following words 'under sub-section (1)' vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act 2000.

Substituted for Chapter IV vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Inserted vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Omitted the following clause (c) vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

‘(c) the salaries and allowances payable to and the other conditions of service of officers and other employees of the Authority under sub-section (2) of section 10;’

Substituted for the following words ‘under clause (I)’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following words ‘under clause (m)’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Substituted for the following words ‘under clause (p)’ vide Telecom Regulatory Appellate Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000.

See (1997) 1 Comp LJ 202 (St.).

Act No. 13 of 1885, dated 22.7.1885. As amended up to date.

Words ‘except the State of Hyderabad’ omitted by the Part B States (Laws) Act, 1951, with effect from 1.4.1951.

Repealed by the Repealing Act, 1938 (1 of 1938,) section 2 and Schedule.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. Act No. 8 of 2004, received the assent of the President on the 9 January, 2004, with retrospective effect from 1.4.2002.

Substituted by the Telegraph Laws (Amendment) Act, 1961, with effect from 2.5.1961.

Clause (1) renumbered as clause (1AA) by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. Act No. 8 of 2004, received the assent of the President on the 9 January, 2004, with retrospective effect from 1.4.2002.

Substituted by A.O. 1937, for ‘the Government’.

Substituted by Act 14 of 1914, section 2 for 'Telegraphs'.

Renumbered as sub-section (1) of the section 4 by Act No. 7 of 1914.

Substituted by Act 45 of 1998, section 3 for 'the Provinces'.

Substituted by Act 45 of 1998, section 3 for 'the Provinces'.

Inserted by Act 7 of 1914, section 4.

Substituted by Act 45 of 1998, section 3 for 'the Provinces'.

Substituted by Act 45 of 1998, section 3 for 'the Provinces'.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. Act No. 8 of 2004, received the assent of the President on the 9 January, 2004, with retrospective effect from 1.4.2002.

Inserted by the Act 7 of 1914.

Substituted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1972, with effect from 21.8.1972.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1971, with effect from 10.8.1971.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1971, with effect from 10.8.1971.

Clauses (e) to (k) inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1957, with effect from 1.7.1959.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1974 with effect from 1.6.1975.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003 . Act No. 8 of 2004, received the assent of the President on the 9 January, 2004, with retrospective effect from 1.4.2002.

Inserted by the Telegraph Laws (Amendment) Act, 1961 with effect from 2.5.1961.

Substituted by the Telegraph Laws (Amendment) Act, 1961, with effect from 2.5.1961.

Substituted for 'which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session

immediately following', by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1974, with effect from 1.6.1975.

Sections 7A and 7B inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1957, with effect from 1.7.1959.

Inserted by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003. Act No. 8 of 2004, received the assent of the President on the 9 January, 2004, with retrospective effect from 1.4.2002.

Sections 19A and 19B inserted by Act 7 of 1914.

Substituted by Act 45 of 1998, section 3 for 'the Provinces'.

Inserted by Act 7 of 1914.

Inserted by Act 7 of 1914.

Substituted by Act 14 of 1914, section 2 for 'Telegraphs'.

Omitted by the A.O. 1937.

Act XVII of 1933, dated 11.9.1933.

Words 'except the State of Hyderabad' omitted by the Part B States (Laws) Act, 1951.

1 January 1934.

Substituted by the Telegraph Laws (Amendment) Act, 1961.

Substituted by the Telegraph Laws (Amendment) Act, 1961.

Substituted by the Act 31 of 1949, section 5 for 'wireless telegraphy apparatus'.

Substituted by the Act 31 of 1949.

Substituted by the Act 31 of 1949.

Inserted by the Telegraph Laws (Amendment) Act, 1961.

Substituted for 'in two successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following' by the Delegated Legislation Provisions (Amendment) Act, 1985, with effect from 15 May 1986.