



## Press Release

# Industry Endorses Minister's Stance on Adoption of Scientific Guidelines for Penalizing the Telecom Service Providers

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 :

**Mr. Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister for Communications & IT**, has very rightly emphasized to the Department (DoT) on the need to evolve scientific and non-discretionary guidelines for deciding penalty for violation of licence conditions and make the process as scientific as possible.

Mr. Rajan S Mathews, Director General COAI appreciated the Minister's understanding and welcomed his guidance to the DoT to review the current process. In his statement Mr. Mathews said that

"The Hon'ble Minister's advice to DOT, as being reported in media, on rational and scientific approach on imposing penalty on Telcos, is a welcome assurance. This reinstates the faith that the Government has in this industry which makes significant contribution to country's economy. The industry is reeling under a high cost burden, it will be unjustified if penalties are regularly imposed at the maximum levels without complete assessment of the issues and causes. Most of these issues may be beyond the operator's control. We are confident that DoT, in consultation with the industry, will frame guidelines that are rational, relevant and objective. This path breaking move will bring about much needed clarity and help strengthen the industry's confidence in the regulations."

The telcos are not only responsible for ringing in the telecom revolution in the country but are playing a major role in the socio-economic development of the country and its people. The telecom companies are also coordinating and providing critical assistance in the national security related issues.

### **About COAI:**

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-profit, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. Prominent private service providers and the infrastructure vendors are members of COAI, and work closely on various Industry issues.

More about COAI at : (<http://www.coai.in/>)