

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1443  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**NET NEUTRALITY**

1443. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note on net neutrality and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to take any steps to ensure net neutrality in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to maintain the core principles of net neutrality?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

- (a) Government is committed to the fundamental principles and concept of net neutrality and strives for non-discriminatory access to internet for all citizens of the country.
- (b) & (c) In order to have proper policy response with respect to various issues involved in Net Neutrality, Government had constituted a committee to examine various aspects of Net Neutrality in January, 2015. The committee has recommended various measures including adherence to core principles of Net Neutrality in its report submitted on 28.05.2015. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has also released its regulation "Prohibition of discriminatory tariffs for data services, Regulations, 2016" on 8th Feb, 2016, which, inter alia, prohibits any service provider from offering or charging discriminatory tariff for data services on the basis of content.

TRAI has submitted its recommendations on Net Neutrality to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 after following a long process of consultations on the issue. TRAI has inter-alia, recommended that Internet access services should be governed by a principle that restricts any form of discrimination or interference in the treatment of content, including practices like blocking, degrading, slowing down or granting preferential speeds or treatment to any content. TRAI has also recommended an amendment to the license agreements to clarify the principle of unrestricted access given under the appropriate license agreements. The recommendations of TRAI are being examined by the Government.