Media Statement from Bharti Airtel

New Delhi
July 11, 2013

Bharti Airtel is shocked and disappointed to receive a demand notice of Rs. 650 crore from the DoT pertaining to the service of Subscriber Local Dialing to its subscribers between 2002 and 2005. Bharti Airtel believes that the demand for penalty of Rs. 650 crore is devoid of any merit and has no justification both on facts and in law.

Bharti Airtel had in 2002 launched the SLD service and had fully satisfied the sector regulator on this service and its various aspects. The regulator had found this service to be customer friendly and in compliance of the licence conditions. The total revenue this SLD service generated for Bharti Airtel was a few lacs of rupees, a fact which is fully known to the DoT. Yet strangely, without as much as giving us a proper hearing, the DoT has after 8 years has issued a demand notice of Rs. 650 crore in complete disregard of the natural process of justice.

We are disappointed that the DoT - which has the bounden duty to act rationally, has thought it fit to issue such a baseless penalty order, leaving us with no choice, but to litigate. We wish the DoT was mindful of the damage such meritless demands have on investor sentiment and the frustration such actions cause to the companies engaged in vital infrastructure.

We urge the DoT to set out a cogent policy on imposition of penalties so that the telecom companies can operate in a rational and transparent environment.

About Bharti Airtel
Bharti Airtel Limited is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 20 countries across Asia and Africa. Headquartered in New Delhi, India, the company ranks amongst the top 4 mobile service providers globally in terms of subscribers. In India, the company's product offerings include 2G, 3G and 4G wireless services, mobile commerce, fixed line services, high speed DSL broadband, IPTV, DTH, enterprise services including national & international long distance services to carriers. In the rest of the geographies, it offers 2G, 3G wireless services and mobile commerce. Bharti Airtel had over 275 million customers across its operations at the end of May 2013. To know more please visit, www.airtel.com