Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110 001
(Data Services Cell)

No. 813-07/25/2016-DS-II **Dated: 27/03/2017**

To,

All Internet Service Providers

Subject: Encouragement/Awareness to customers by ISPs for installation of end user filters (Parental Control Filters).

The explosion of information and communication technology has created unprecedented opportunities for children and young people to communicate, connect, share, learn, access information and express their opinions on matters that affect their lives and their communities. But wider and more easily available access to the Internet and mobile technology also poses significant challenges to children's safety – both online and offline like Child Abuse Material (CAM), bullying, etc.

2. International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognised that Child Online Protection – in the era of the massively-available broadband Internet – is a critical issue that urgently requires a global, coordinated response. Further, ITU & UNICEF has issued the Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection aimed at establishing the foundation for safer and more secure use of Internet-based services and associated technologies for today's children and future generations. The Guidelines apply to the safety of children when using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

3. ITU has mentioned that there are numbers of software programmes available which can help screen out unwanted material or block unwanted contacts. Some of these child safety and filtering programmes may be essentially free because they are part of a computer's operating system or they are provided as part of a package available from an ISP or TSP. These technical tools should be used as part of a broader arsenal. Parental and/ or guardian involvement is critical.

4. Therefore, to reduce the risks of the digital revolution while enabling more children and young people to reap its benefits, all ISPs are requested to make suitable arrangements to spread awareness among their subscribers about the use of Parental Control Filters in the end user machines through messages of email, invoices, SMS, websites, etc.

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