

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:30

ANSWERED ON:17.02.2006

LIFE TIME VALIDITY OF MOBILE TELEPHONE

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Pal Shri Rupchand;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has looked into the issue of recently announced life-time validity schemes by many mobile operators;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has expressed its reservations on the schemes; and
- (d) if so, the details therefor alongwith the reasons thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Several mobile operators have implemented tariff schemes under the name and style of lifetime validity. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper highlighting various issues/concerns and sought views of the stakeholders on various aspects of the schemes.

The issues raised in the Consultation Paper are as follows:

# Long-term viability and sustainability of tariff schemes with lifetime validity.

# The concept of lifetime validity.

# Change in traffic patterns and Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) Regime.

# Protection against hike in tariff.

# Implications for the orderly growth of the telecom sector.

# Exit option.

# Asymmetric Regulation.