

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2377

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007

MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to introduce number portability for mobile services in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the companies would not take additional charge from the subscribers for the said facility;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which the said scheme likely to be started;
- (f) the reaction of the private sector telecom companies in this regard; and
- (g) the extent to which the mobile consumers are likely to be benefited in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) On 12.11.2007, Government has in-principle accepted the recommendation dated 8.3.2006 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Mobile Number Portability (MNP) and has decided to introduce mobile number portability in the four metro cities namely Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in the initial phase.

(c) & (d) TRAI issues Telecom Tariff Orders (TTOs) from time to time. Therefore, the fee likely to be levied on the customer for availing MNP facility will be decided by TRAI in due course of time.

(e) MNP Facility is likely to be available to the mobile subscribers of the four metro cities by the fourth quarter of 2008.

(f) Most of the private sector telecom companies have welcomed the Government's decision of introduction of MNP. However, some of the private sector telecom companies is in favour of introduction of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) and Fixed Number Portability (FNP) at the same time in all parts of India.

(g) Mobile Number Portability will enable a mobile subscriber to change his service provider within the same service area based on his choice, while retaining his mobile number. Besides this, MNP will increase the level of competition between service providers for retaining their subscriber resulting in better customer services, network coverage, and service quality.