

Information Note to the Press (Press Release No.228/2012)

For Immediate Release

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

New Delhi, the 30th November, 2012: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today released a Consultation Paper on 'Deactivation of SIMs due to Non-usage'.

Mobile number series allocated to the wireless access service providers for provisioning of mobile numbers are becoming increasingly scarce because of a significant growth in the number of wireless connections coupled with the presence of a large number of competitive wireless access service providers. It has been observed that a significant number of wireless connections are not used for long periods of time. This results in avoidable blocking of scarce numbering resources.

With an aim to manage their numbering resources better, the service providers have proposed to follow a procedure for deactivating mobile connections which are not used for a long time. However, while carrying out such deactivations, the customers should be informed transparently and those customers who wish to retain their connections even while not using them should have the option to do so on payment of a connection retention fee. TRAI has, therefore, decided to undertake a consultation process on various issues related to deactivation of SIMs due to non-usage with a view to protect the interests of consumers while seeking to ensure better utilization of scarce numbering resources.

The written comments on the issues raised in the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 21.12.2012. Counter-comments, if any, may be sent by 28.12.2012. The comments and counter-comments may also be sent by e-mail to raj.pal@nic.in. For any clarification/ information, Shri Raj Pal, Advisor (F&EA) may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23230752 Fax: +91-11-23236650.

Rajeev Agrawal
Secretary