

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1568  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017  
PRE-LAUNCH NETWORK TRIALS**

1568. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the TRAI has tendered any recommendations pertaining to the pre-launch network trial and if so, the details thereof enlisting major recommendations in this regard; and
- (b) whether as per the said recommendations, the number of test subscribers that can be enrolled by an operator in a licence service area should be limited to 5% of its installed network capacity for that area and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)**

(a) & (b) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued its recommendations on "Network Testing before Commercial Launch of Services" on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. The key recommendations are as under:

- i. A Telecom Service Provider (TSP) should be allowed to enrol test subscribers in testing phase to carry out the network testing before commercial launch of its services.
- ii. The number of test subscribers that can be enrolled by a TSP in a Licensed Service Area (LSA) should be limited to 5% of its installed network capacity for that LSA. The TSP will submit the detailed capacity calculations of the network to Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and TRAI atleast 15 days before commencing enrolment of test subscribers.
- iii. There should be a limit of 90 days on the test phase involving test subscribers. However, if the TSP fails to conclude network testing due to valid reasons, it may make a representation to DoT, seeking additional time for network testing giving detailed justification, which may be decided by DoT on case to case basis.
- iv. If a TSP wants to enrol test subscribers, it should give prior intimation to DoT and TRAI atleast 15 days before commencing enrolment of test subscribers.

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- v. All licensing provisions related to the security and privacy such as ensuring adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber, protection and privacy of communication, maintaining Call Detail Record (CDR)/Internet Protocol Detail Record (IPDR), Confidentiality of Information, Lawful interception & monitoring etc. must be complied with by the TSP.
- vi. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) facility should not be extended to network under testing.
- vii. If a TSP wants to enrol test subscribers for the testing of its network, it should transparently give the following information to the test subscribers at the time of their enrolment:
  - During test phase, TSP is not mandated to adhere to specified level of Quality of Service (QoS). Therefore, there may be sub-optimal level of network performance.
  - The scope of services during the test period.
  - MNP facility won't be available till the services are commercially launched.
  - There won't be any charge (fixed charge or usage based charge) during the test phase.
  - Likely date of commercial launch.

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