

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3509
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2018**

eSIM

3509. SHRIMATI VASANTHI M.:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allowed the use of Embedded Subscriber Identity Module (eSIM);
- (b) if so, the details and the benefits thereof;
- (c) whether eSIM is a virtual equivalent of normal SIM cards and come embedded in the mobile device and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether these eSIM cannot be removed from the device but can be updated over the air 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) to (d) In order to cater to the needs of modern technological developments in Machine-to-Machine (M2M) communications/Internet of Things (IoT), the Department of Telecommunications on 16.05.2018 has permitted the use of 'Embedded-Subscriber Identity Module (E-SIM)' with both Single and Multiple profile configurations with Over the Air (OTA) subscription update facility, as the case may be, as per the prevailing global specifications and standards.

E-SIM performs the same function of authenticating the validity of mobile subscription as that of normal SIM (Subscriber Identity Module); however, it has better form factor, endurance, temperature and data retention capabilities compared to normal SIM. The normal SIM is pluggable, whereas, the E-SIM is embedded in the devices.

As the E-SIM is not intended to be removed or replaced by the user from the device, it is not easily accessible or replaceable by the user and is generally hard wired (soldered) until the end of life of the device/product by the original equipment manufacturer. In the E-SIM, it is possible to manage (including addition/deletion) the subscriptions/profiles using Subscription Management Tools Over the Air (OTA) securely.
