

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4297
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2026**

MOBILE NUMBERING SYSTEM IN INDIA

**4297. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether DoT plans to introduce a new mobile number series beginning with '5' in view of rising digital adoption and dual-SIM usage and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of circle-wise vacant mobile number slots in the 60–69, 70–79, 80–89 and 90–99 series;
- (c) the procedure, criteria and demand-forecasting norms followed for allocating Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) codes to operators;
- (d) the operator-wise and circle-wise distribution of allocated mobile number slots;
- (e) the steps taken regarding numbering resources of defunct operators such as Aircel, Tata Docomo and Uninor;
- (f) whether such surrendered series have been reallocated to active operators and if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether any numbering ranges are reserved for regulated entities to curb impersonation-based financial frauds and if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) whether further revisions to the National Numbering Plan are under consideration and the broad areas being reviewed to enhance efficiency, security, consumer protection and support country's rapidly expanding telecom ecosystem and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. PEMMASANI CHANDRA SEKHAR)**

- (a) No, there is no plan to introduce a new mobile number series beginning with '5'.
- (b) to (d) New MSC codes are allocated to operators on the basis of utilization, as per the criterion prescribed, of already allocated codes. The criterion details for allocation of new MSC codes is enclosed as Annexure. The updated details of MSC codes allocated to operators is available on DoT website.

- (e) In cases where licensee surrender its license, the numbering resources allocated to such licensee are withdrawn and included in the common pool of MSC codes available with the Central Government.
- (f) Based on the demand and meeting the prescribed criterion, additional number resources are allocated to operators from the common pool of MSC Codes available with the Central Government.
- (g) The number series '1600XXXXXX' has been reserved for regulated entities for making service and transactional voice calls.
- (h) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendations dated 06.02.2025 on "Revision of National Numbering Plan", review of the "National Numbering Plan-2003" is under consideration.

Annexure

Sr. No.	Numbers Allocated (N)	Virtual Location Register Figure (V) as %age of Number Allocated (V/N)
1	Less than 3 Million	Subject to minimum of 40%
2	3 Million to less than 6 Million	Subject to minimum of 45%
3	6 Million to less than 8 Million	Subject to minimum of 50%
4	8 Million	Subject to minimum of 55%
5	9 Million	Subject to minimum of 60%
6	10 Million to less than 15 Million	Subject to minimum of 63%
7	15 Million to less than 20 Million	Subject to minimum of 66%
8	20 Million to less than 25 Million	Subject to minimum of 68%
9	25 Million and above	Subject to minimum of 70%
