

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2118
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
DIRECTORY OF MOBILE PHONE USERS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring out a directory of mobile phone users;
- (b) if so, whether cellular operators have opposed the said move;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has given it's Recommendations on `Printing of Telephone Directory and Directory Enquiry Service` which are under examination of the Government.

During the consultation process and discussion held by TRAI, the operators were not in favour of publishing directory, specially mobile directory. The major reasons advanced by the operators against publication of telephone directory and directory enquiry services are rapid growth of mobile subscribers, high churn, majority of the customers are pre-paid, bulkness of printed directory, privacy issues, etc. Though the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) supports mandatory Directory Enquiry Services for fixed lines, it is not in favour of Directory Enquiry Services for mobile customers because of privacy issues, personal communication issues, etc.