

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
8th March, 2006

PRESS RELEASE NO. 23/2006

TRAI releases Recommendations for permitting usage of Strings containing #, \$, £ etc. for accessing High Speed Data Services in Wireless Networks

TRAI today issued its Recommendations for permitting usage of Strings containing #, \$, £ etc. for accessing High Speed Data Services in Wireless Networks

Most of the BSOs/UASPs, who are providing services through wireless based network, expressed their inability to provide Internet access by dialing 172xxx as per the provision of National Numbering Plan-2003 pertaining to dialup Internet access due to technical non-feasibility. Their customers are provided access to the Internet service by keying-in #777 as a standard feature of CDMA handsets and \$99\$ and *99 £ etc. as a standard feature of GSM handsets to invoke the service option for high-speed Internet access.

The National Numbering Plan 2003 is silent about the usage of such strings to indicate the option for higher speed Internet access within the service providers' network. TRAI obtained the comments of major stakeholders on this issue as a part of the consultation process before finalizing any recommendations on this.

After consultation with major operators and vendors it is found that the strings used for keying in service option in a mobile handset are the integral part of the handset and are not transmitted further to the network. Also, it is felt that if the use of such strings in both CDMA and GSM/GPRS networks is not explicitly allowed, the customers of these networks will be deprived of access to high speed "always on" Internet services.

Based on the stakeholders comments and keeping in view the interest of consumers TRAI recommended that relevant provisions of NNP-2003, viz. clause 1.6 of Introduction Part and Numbers for Special Services described in Annex IV, be elaborated and clarified so that the usage of strings containing #, \$, £ etc. for indicating option of High Speed Internet access through wireless networks is explicitly allowed.

The detailed recommendations are available on TRAI's website at: www.trai.gov.in.

(S. N. GUPTA)
Advisor (CN)