

Dear

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

As per Schedule 'A' of ISP licence, dialup customers should be given access to ISP of choice from anywhere irrespective of whether they are located within service area of an ISP. In order to ensure compliance of terms and conditions of licence and to protect the interest of consumers, the Authority issued a directive on 29th December 2003 to all CMSPs and BSOs to ensure the accessibility to Internet Services as per the National Numbering Plan-2003.

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 £ as a standard feature of GSM handsets to invoke the service option for 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. At the time of formation of NNP-2003, access to Internet services was mainly PSTN dialup and the strings containing #, \$, £ for High Speed Internet access on Wireless Networks were not known to be used in general and hence these strings might not have been considered for inclusion in NNP-2003, for this purpose.

TRAI obtained the comments of major stakeholders on this issue as a part of the consultation process.

After consideration of the submissions by the stakeholders and keeping in view the interests of consumers, the Authority has finalized its recommendations pertaining to need for elaboration and clarification in NNP-2003 for enabling the above.

The recommendations are enclosed for the consideration of Government.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Pradip Baijal)

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