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Department of Telecommunications

Press Release

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The Mobile Number Portability (MNP) shall allow subscribers to retain their existing telephone number when they switch from one access service provider to another irrespective of mobile technology or from one technology to another of the same or any other access service provider within same service area.

For the information of general public, it is stated that for the purpose of MNP implementation the country has been divided in two zones and Licenses has been issued to one MNP Operator in each zone. The MNP Operators in the two zones of the country are to provide Centralised Database, Query response and Clearing House to enable correct routing and termination of calls by Access (Basic/ Mobile) Service Providers and International Long Distance (ILD) operators post MNP implementation. The whole network in the country is to be ready and tested before the MNP Service is implemented. For this purpose, various activities are required to be carried out by the operators including technical augmentation and upgradation of their existing networks, carrying out required installation verification tests, establishing links with MNP Operators and conducting inter operator tests. After the service providers are ready with their own inter-operator test results, a complete Acceptance Test (AT) is to be carried out by DOT across the networks of all the concerned service providers in all the service areas before MNP Service is implemented.

As per the present time lines, the MNP Service was to be implemented in the first phase by 31st December 2009 in Metro and Category 'A' Service Areas. A series of meetings were held by DOT with the concerned Service Providers to assess their readiness for MNP Service implementation. The progress of various Service Providers was noted and it was found that while some of the Access (Basic/ Mobile) and ILD Service Providers have technically upgraded and augmented their networks and some have established physical links with MNP Operators, others are still in the process. All these are time consuming processes. The concerned Service Providers are being given time frame by DOT for various activities.

Keeping all aspects in mind, Government has now decided to extend time line for MNP implementation in whole of the country in one go by 31st March 2010.