

1. In order to reduce/discourage mobile theft do you think the blocking of IMEI is an effective solution? Please give reasons

Yes, blocking of IMEI is definitely an effective solution, provided we also have a legislation in place which bans reprogramming of IMEIs.

2. In case blocking of IMEI is implemented, to what extent load on the network will increase? Please give details

The load will definitely increase on the networks but it will only be marginally, as the number of lost mobiles is very low compared to the total subscriber base of any operator. It should theoretically be the sum of all mobiles lost in the country.

3. In your opinion who should maintain the CEIR? Please give Reasons.

In my opinion, half of the expenses should be maintained by the government and the remaining half should be by the operators. The ratio of their contribution could be the ratio of their subscriber bases, as more subscribers mean greater probability of theft. Also, the smaller operators with less revenues will be charged less.

4. Should the CEIR be maintained at national level or zonal level? Provide details including the estimated data size

The CEIR should be maintained both at national level and zonal level, the zonal level being updated every week and the national , every month.

5. Please comment on cost and funding aspects of Centralized EIR ? Please provide detailed cost estimates?

Please refer to answers of points 2,3and 4 above for a rough estimate.

6. Should blocking of IMEI /ESN be chargeable from customer? If yes, what should be the charge?

Yes, it should definitely be chargeable, but it should be a minimal amount, say Rs 50.

7. Please give your views on bringing a legislation to prevent reprogramming of mobile devices? In your opinion what are the aspects that need to be covered under such legislation?

Yes, there is definitely a necessity for bringing a legislation to prevent reprogramming of mobile devices. The ones exempt from this legislation could

be the original manufacturer of such mobile phones. For starters, we could take cue from the UK legislation.

8. What should be the procedure for blocking the IMEI?

It could be that the person files a FIR/GD first. Then he/she should contact the network operator physically with the FIR and his proof of purchase, mentioning his IMEI. If the applicant is not the first hand owner of the mobile phone, there should be a proof of repurchase along with the original proof of purchase(that could be on a plain paper with Rs 1 revenue stamp). Then the application should be taken up for processing into the Centralized EIR.

9. If lost mobile is found, should there be a facility of unblocking the IMEI number? If yes, what should be the process for it? Should there be a time limit for unblocking the IMEI number? Should it be chargeable?

Yes , there should definitely be a process for unblocking. It should be similar to the blocking procedure, again with a minimal fee of Rs 50. A percentage of this money that the operators realize (let's put it as 50%) should be pooled back to the Government/regulatory agency.

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regards,
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