BSNL's Comments on Consultation Paper on "Issues relating to blocking of IMEI for lost / stolen mobile handsets"

Sr. No.	Issues for consultation	BSNL's Comments
1.	In order to reduce/discourage mobile theft do you think the blocking of IMEI is an effective solution? Please give reasons.	The blocking of IMEI for lost/stolen mobile handsets will act as a deterrent as well as provide an effective solution provided action is taken to address the issue of illegal re-programming of IMEI to end it.
2.	In case blocking of IMEI is implemented, to what extent load on the network will increase? Please give details	There would be only marginal incremental load on the network, as the EIR is already integrated with the networks in compliance to DoT directions and is operational.
3.	In your opinion who should maintain the CEIR? Please give reasons	As suggested by TRAI in the consultation paper, the EIRs of service providers should be shared through a centralized database, generally known as CEIR, to prevent the use of stolen/lost handsets in all networks. The CEIR should be maintained by a neutral third party, which should not have any stake in any of the CMTS/UASL Licensees. The neutral third party can be TRAI/NIC as in the case of National Do Not Call (NDNC) database.
4.	Should the CEIR be maintained at national level or zonal level? Provide details including the estimated data size.	The CEIR should be maintained at national level only as maintaining it at zonal level would again defeat the purpose, because the stolen mobile handsets of one zone could easily be transferred to the other zone for re-use.
5.	Please comment on cost and funding aspects of Centralized EIR? Please provide detailed cost estimates?	As regards the detailed cost estimates of centralized EIR, any comment can be offered once the dimensioning of the equipment is known. However, the funding of CEIR can be done through the funds available with TRAI/DoT. Alternatively, the cost can be recovered from the customers by charging the blocking and/or unblocking of IMEI.
6.	Should blocking of IMEI/ESN be chargeable from customer? If yes, what should be the charge?	
7.	Please give your views on bringing a legislation to prevent re-programming of mobile devices? In your opinion what are the aspects	It is strongly felt that there should be a legislation to prevent re-programming of mobile devices. It is felt that apart from monitory penalties, criminal charges be

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	that need to be covered under such legislation?	pressed against the people indulging in such illegal activities.
8.	What should be the procedure for blocking the IMEI?	The Customer should lodge an FIR for the lost/stolen handset with the concerned Police Station and thereafter the Customer should inform in writing along with the copy of the FIR for blocking the IMEI of the lost/stolen handset to the Customer Service Centre/Point of Contact of the Service Provider. The Service Provider in turn should intimate the Central EIR repository Nodal Officer on "on-line" basis. The Nodal Officer at CEIR should Update the database on daily basis at a scheduled time. The updated data base should be pushed to/pulled by the individual Service Provider's EIR for blocking.
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 it be chargeable?	In case a lost mobile handset is found, the same process as detailed in para 8 above can be followed with the exception that this time the process is for unblocking instead of blocking and the copy of police closure report of the case instead of FIR.