

Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had asked for details of billing from these hospitals under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013). Based on the data submitted by the hospitals, NPPA has observed that there is an upward gap between the procurement prices of drugs and amounts at which the drugs are billed to the patients for some scheduled medicines, non-scheduled medicines, consumables and devices used in the treatment of patients. As per the provision of DPCO, 2013, while arriving at a ceiling price of scheduled formulations and retail price of new drugs, sixteen per cent margin to retailer is counted. According to NPPA's report, the highest margin (difference of amount billed for the formulation by the hospitals and their procurement price expressed in percentage terms) available to these hospitals on scheduled medicines, non-scheduled medicines, consumables and non-scheduled medical devices are 357%, 1192%, 1737% and 1271% respectively. Study reports prepared on the basis of information submitted by these hospitals is available under the "What's New" link of website of NPPA (www.nppaindia.nic.in).

(b) As per DPCO, 2013, all manufacturers of Scheduled medicines have to sell their products within the ceiling price fixed by the Government. As regards non-scheduled formulations, the manufacturers are not allowed to increase the price by more than 10 % per annum. The Government regularly monitors the number of manufacturers in the market for various formulations and ensure that there is sufficient flow of medicines in the market. The Government also checks whether such manufacturers continue the production of concerned scheduled formulations. Pharmaceutical companies do launch medicines as 'new drugs' under para 2(u) of DPCO, 2013 and take a maximum upto 10 per cent annual increase on these medicines as per the provisions of DPCO, 2013.

Reduction in processing fee for mobile number portability

*162. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has proposed reduction for processing Mobile Number Portability (MNP) charge from ₹ 19/- to ₹ 4/-, as charge being levied is quite high as compared to the cost and volumes of transactions involved;

(b) whether the number of porting requests jumped from 6.4 million during 2010-11 to 36.8 million in 2014-15, which further rose to 63.6 million during 2016-17;

(c) whether the MNP has helped in increasing the mobile density in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) After reviewing the financial results of the Mobile Number Portability Service Providers and the upsurge in the volume of porting requests in the past two years, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) opined that the per port transaction charges of ₹ 19/- (fixed by notifying Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability Per Port Transaction Charge and Dipping Charge Regulations, 2009 dated 20th November, 2009), is quite high as compared to cost and volume of transactions involved. Hence, the Per Port Transaction charge was reduced from ₹ 19/- to ₹ 4/- by notifying "The Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability per port Transaction charge and Dipping Charge (Amendment) Regulations, 2018 (3 of 2018) dated 31st January, 2018".

(b) The porting requests during the year 2010-11 to 2016-17 is given as hereunder.

Porting requests during the year

Year (As on March)	Cumulative porting requests	Addition during the year (Y-o-Y) (in Million)
2010-11	64,22,599	-
2011-12	4,18,76,005	35.45
2012-13	8,96,96,580	47.82
2013-14	11,70,13,400	27.32
2014-15	15,38,45,322	36.83
2015-16	20,91,29,813	55.28
2016-17	27,27,62,887	63.63

(c) and (d) The Mobile Tele Density of the country depends on several factors pertaining to demand and supply of the resources, Government Policies, etc. Mobile Number Portability does not have any direct impact on Mobile Tele Density.

Lok Adalats

*163. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with an average disposal of 50 lakh cases annually, Lok Adalats are playing an important role in disposing of pending cases in the country;

(b) if so, the constraints that the Ministry has to make Lok Adalats as regular courts instead of asking them to sit for two months in a year;