We will not prove it but illustrate this fact with a few examples. The terminating cases are easy.

Example 6 : Show that 3.142678 is a rational number. In other words, express 3.142678 in the form $\frac{p}{q}$, where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$.

Solution : We have $3.142678 = \frac{3142678}{1000000}$, and hence is a rational number.

Now, let us consider the case when the decimal expansion is non-terminating recurring.

Example 7 : Show that $0.3333... = 0.\overline{3}$ can be expressed in the form $\frac{p}{q}$, where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$.

Solution : Since we do not know what $0.\overline{3}$ is , let us call it 'x' and so

$$x = 0.3333...$$

Now here is where the trick comes in. Look at

$$10\,x = 10 \times (0.333...) = 3.333...$$

Now, $$3.3333... = 3 + x, \text{ since } x = 0.3333...$$

Therefore, $$10\,x = 3 + x$$

Solving for x, we get

$$9x = 3, \text{ i.e., } x = \frac{1}{3}$$

Example 8 : Show that $1.272727... = 1.\overline{27}$ can be expressed in the form $\frac{p}{q}$, where p and q are integers and $q \neq 0$.

Solution : Let $x = 1.272727...$ Since two digits are repeating, we multiply x by 100 to get

$$100\,x = 127.2727...$$

So, $$100\,x = 126 + 1.272727... = 126 + x$$

Therefore, $$100\,x - x = 126, \text{ i.e., } 99\,x = 126$$