

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5838
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
DISCONTINUATION OF VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of ISPs (Inter Service Providers) have discontinued their Virtual Private Network (VPN) services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the Inter Service Providers and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to resolve the issue and safeguard the interests of subscribers?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (c) It has been clarified by the Government that provision of Virtual Private Network (VPN) service by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) is not permitted under their existing ISP license. ISPs have been directed to discontinue VPN services unless permitted by the Competent Authority, after amendment in their respective licenses subject to certain terms and conditions.

(b) The information regarding ISPs having discontinued VPN service is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.