

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:939
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
ILLEGAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

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

- (a) whether some unscrupulous people are running parallel telephone exchanges throughout the country causing huge loss of revenue to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the guilty has been brought to book in these cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the stringent action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) As soon as any such illegal setup comes to light, immediate action is taken against the illegal operator.
- (b) 257 cases till date have come to the notice of DOT and notional loss of more than 400 crores have occurred due to these illegal setups, to the nation.

Year-wise breakup of case as below:

1998-1999 - 09
1999-2000 - 10
2000-2001 - 29
2001-2002 - 56
2002-2003 - 46
2003-2004 - 32
2004 till date - 75

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) More than 150 persons have been arrested till date in such illegal grey market cases.
- (e) FIR is registered with the law enforcing agencies, under various sections (main), as mentioned below in addition to any new sections as applicable based on case to case basis.

- 420,120B & 379 of IPC 1860
- 4,20,20(A), 25 of the IT Act 1885
- 3,6 of the IWT Act 1933

Preventive action taken by Government

- All the High Tech Equipment used in the illegal setup is seized by the security agency.
- Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.

- Department of Telecom has issued Instructions/ Guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/frauds.
- Training and presentations are being given to the Senior Telecom Officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal setups.
- A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.
- Dedicated CBI cells have been setup in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom related frauds.
- The loss caused in such cases is also raised for recovery from the negligent service providers.
- Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell created in October 2004, in four places namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai for curbing such grey market operations.
- Toll free number 1600-110-420 and 011-23731100 have been opened so that general public can help in detection such cases. Advertisement given in leading news papers for creating awareness among public.