

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2006  
PHONE CLONING  
Masood Shri Rasheed

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

- (a) whether any case of phone cloning in `Garuda` and other telephones has come to the notice of the Government recently;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to check phone-cloning in future?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir. 1166 cases in Delhi and one case in Mumbai on the cloning of Garuda (post paid WLL mobile service) telephone have come to the notice of MTNL. Similarly, one case of cloning in `Tarang` (post paid WLL mobile service) telephone has come to the notice of BSNL.

(b) & (c) In MTNL Mumbai, a case has been registered with the local police. Steps taken by BSNL and MTNL to check phone cloning are given below:

\$ To check phone cloning in future, authentication process in CDMA MSC was made more secure by implementing an additional A-Key based authentication feature. It has been ensured that the subscriber terminals now being procured by MTNL would also have this secure authentication feature based on A - Key.

\$ Further, the handsets already working in CDMA network were also programmed with A-Key to make them `cloning proof`.

\$ Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC) has been requested to incorporate the security features in the specifications of Code Division Multiplex Access (CDMA) WLL systems to avoid cloning of phones in the future.

\$ New 400K CDMA network is also having A - Key based authentication and OTA feature for secure transmission on A - Key in subscriber terminals.

\$ In those cases where the subscriber's handset did not support A-Key implementation, STD/ISD facility has been temporarily withdrawn to limit the misuse.

\$ Old IS-95 handsets were replaced with new cloning proof IX CDMA handset under special discount scheme.

\$ Help of Police authorities has also been taken by lodging of FIRs with the Police.

\$ Booking in Plan B (customer own handset) stopped.

\$ Monitoring of fortnightly calling pattern to identify abnormally high calling numbers for temporary disconnection.