

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2006
PROVIDING VOICE INTERCEPTS
Mishra Dr. Rajesh Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Department of Telecommunications allegedly pulled up service providers for not providing voice intercepts of those subscribers who were outside their home circle and therefore on the roaming facility to security agencies as reported in The Business Standard dated June 2, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is possible to track a subscriber once he leaves home network;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the interest of national security?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 155 FOR 2ND AUGUST, 2006 REGARDING PROVIDING VOICE INTERCEPTS.

(a) & (b) As per provisions of the License Agreement Voice Intercepts of the subscribers who are within their home network or are availing roaming facility can be provided to the Security Agencies on receipt of the directions issued by the Competent Authority. Coordination meetings are held with service providers and security agencies on such issues whenever required.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) In the interest of the national security, suitable conditions have been incorporated in the licence agreement which inter-alia include the following:

(i) The LICENSEE is obliged to provide, without any delay, all the tracing facilities to trace nuisance, obnoxious or malicious calls, messages or communications transported through his equipment and network, to authorized officers of Government of India.

(ii) The LICENSEE shall provide necessary facilities depending upon the specific situation at the relevant time to the Government to counteract espionage, subversive act, sabotage or any other unlawful activity.

(iii) The designated person of the Central/State Government as conveyed by the Licensor from time to time in addition to the Licensor or its nominee shall have the right to monitor the telecommunication traffic.

(iv) The LICENSEE should ensure suitable redundancy in the complete chain of Monitoring equipment for trouble free operations of monitoring of calls.

(v) The Government through appropriate notification may debar usage of mobile terminals in certain areas in the country.