

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2039
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
I.T. SECTOR UNDER ESSENTIAL SERVICES
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

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

:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring I.T. sector under essential services ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a),(b) and (c): As per the Ministry of Home Affairs the Central Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 (ESMA), came into force on 23rd September 1981, the life of the original Act was only four years i.e. 1985, thereafter, it was extended up to 1990, the question of continuance of ESMA, 1981 was examined in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Ministries and Departments and it was decided not to extend the term of the Act further and the Act lapsed in September 1990. Many of the States having their own ESM Acts.

As per Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are declared as Public Utility by the State Governments. This is to ensure that the export orders, which have to be fulfilled on a time-bound basis are not affected due to flash strikes.