

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:161

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014

SELLING OF SIM CARDS

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

- (a) whether a large number of SIM cards sold in the country are imported despite enough production capacity existing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the National Security Council (NSC) has written to the Department of Telecom to ensure that all SIM cards used in the country are domestically manufactured in order to protect the telecom and banking networks of the country from cyber security threat;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government to clearly establish and monitor the context of ownership before giving clearance for manufacturing of SIM cards to each manufacturer in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) Madam, The Department of Telecommunications doesn't maintain data about the number of SIM cards sold in the country. As per Foreign Trade Policy, SIM Cards can be imported freely into the country. However, the import –export data related for the year 2013-14 is as follows:

India's Export From 04-2013 To 03-2014
Commodity Apr'13 to March '14 Qty Apr'13 to March '14 value (INR)
SIM Cards 259,103,641 5,223,515,217

India's Import From 04-2013 To 03-2014
Commodity Apr'13 to March '14 Qty Apr'13 to March '14 value (INR)
SIM Cards 294,619,488 2,577,815,726

Source: DGCIS

(c) to (e) Department of Telecommunications has not received any such instructions from the National Security Council (NSC).