

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:111  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001  
ILLEGAL TELECOM NETWORK  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA;MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether illegal telecom network is being run in many parts of the country particularly in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases detected by Vigilance Department during the last three months and as on date;
- (c) the losses suffered by the Government as a result thereof;
- (d) the number of employees found involved therein; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such malpractices in future?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(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 STA QUESTION NO. 111 FOR 30th JULY, 2001 REGARDING ILLEGAL TELECOM NETWORK.

During the last three months, 3 cases in Mumbai and 9 cases in other parts of the country pertaining to routing of illegal incoming international calls bypassing international gateways of VSNL have been detected. The loss in these cases would be on account of VSNL/BSNL/MTNL having been deprived of the revenue share which would have accrued to them, had the calls been routed through the gateways of VSNL. The notional loss suffered in 7 of these cases, is estimated to be around Rs. 20.68 crores and in the remaining cases such loss could not be assessed. Since the private persons are involved in these illegal activities, help of CBI/Police is taken for investigations and appropriate action in the matter. Involvement of employees, if any, will be known after the completion of investigation by CBI/Police. Government is constantly reviewing and taking corrective measures to stop such misuse. The steps taken include:-

- (i) Dedicated CBI cells have been created in the 4 metros exclusively for detecting and checking telecom related frauds.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued to field units for making surprise checks for detecting the misuse of the International Private Leased Circuits.
- (iii) Premises having Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) antenna and bulk telephone connections are kept under special watch.
- (iv) Instructions have been issued to all field units to inspect Internet Service Providers (ISP) set up for keeping a check on passing of voice calls illegally.
- (v) Surveillance is also being done for detecting such illegal networks.
- (vi) A close coordination between service provider and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.