

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1115

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004

ILLEGAL PHONE RACKET

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

- (a) whether a major scam in the international telephony running into crores of rupees was recently unearthed in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof stating the modus operandi of the illegal phone racket in providing international phone call;
- (c) the estimated loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir. No major scam in international telephony causing loss of crores of rupees to the government has been unearthed recently in Mumbai. However, during the financial year, 2003-2004, 13 cases of illegal forwarding of incoming international calls by passing the legal gateways have been detected in MTNL, Mumbai.

(b) In all these cases, the private parties who had taken telephone lines/mobile connections and leased lines from various service providers were found extending international calls illegally. The modus operandi employed was bringing incoming international calls traffic through leased line and switching the same using high-tech equipment and further distributing the calls to end users through Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

(c) The estimated loss suffered by the Government service providers during 2003-2004 is Rs. 1,17,04,793/-. Out of this the maximum loss accrued in one case detected Rs. 2269,999/-. This loss has been estimated on the assumption that these calls would have passed through legal gateways and consequent earning of revenue by the Government and service providers.

(d) The following action has been taken in the matter:

(i) FIRs have been filed with the police authorities and offenders prosecuted.

(ii) Surveillance has been increased to detect the frauds by inspecting bulk booking of telephones and monitoring the calls traffic.

(iii) A close coordination between the service providers and investigating agencies is maintained to book the offenders.

(iv) Dedicated CBI cells have been created in the four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom, related frauds.

(v) Department of telecom have issued guidelines to all service providers to take necessary steps to ensure that such illegal set-ups are stopped/curbed forthwith.