

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4806
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
CELL PHONE VIRUS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that cell phone virus is spreading in various countries and may also affect India soon;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the cell phone users?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has come to know only through internet/media reports that cell phone virus has spread in some countries like USA, Philippines and China. A mobile phone virus called `Cabir`, which affects the high end mobile phone through blue tooth technology and makes the phone useless by draining its battery quickly, is spreading from its origin in the United States. However, in India, no specific case has been reported in this regard.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have taken some preventive steps to protect the mobile networks and cell phone from viruses, which spread through network. However, the same may not be effective in cases such as the virus `Cabir`, which spreads through blue tooth technology/infra red access of phones. For protecting the mobile phones from such viruses, individual can prevent by protecting their phones with passwords and avoiding any unknown incoming applications.