

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1109

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2005

PARALLEL TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

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

- (a) whether a number of parallel Telephone Exchanges are operating in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the officers of Telecommunication are also allegedly involved in it;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the total loss of revenue being incurred due to these parallel Telephone Exchanges; and
- (f) the stringent action 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. In the past, based on sourced information/ or information provided by security agencies, the Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Units of Department of Telecommunication, along with security agencies have curbed many illegal grey market telephone setups in the country, as soon as they have been detected. The same is being practiced as on date as well.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Till date, no such cases where, officer of Telecommunication alleged involvement have come to the notice of the department.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) As per available data, the estimated notional loss of more than 450 crores has been caused to the country, by around 300 illegal grey market cases detected till date, since 1998.

(f) Preventive & Stringent action taken by Government:

All the High Tech Equipment used in the illegal setup is seized by the security agency and cases have been registered against the offenders. Further investigation in such cases is in progress.

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

Department of Telecom has issued instructions / Guidelines to all service providers for effective monitoring, detection and prevention of such illegal set ups/frauds.

Training and presentations are being given to the senior Telecom officers for better awareness regarding effective detection and prevention of such illegal set ups.

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

Dedicated CBI cells have been set up in four metros for exclusively detecting and checking telecom, related frauds.

The notional loss caused in such cases is also raised as penalty from the negligent service providers.

Vigilance and Telecom Monitoring Cell has been created in October 2004, in four places namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, for curbing such grey market operations.

Toll free public number 1600-110-420 have been opened, so that general public can help the department, in detection of such cases. Advertisement given in leading news papers and SMS's are sent by mobile operators to their customers, for creating awareness

among public.