

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:143

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004

GREY MARKET IN INTERNATIONAL LONG DISTANCE SEGMENT

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

- (a) whether grey market in the International long distance segment is growing rapidly leading to huge losses to the exchequer annually;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) steps being taken in the matter to check the bungling?

**Answer**

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

(a) No, Sir. The year-wise statistical information does not indicate rapid growth in grey market in the International Long Distance segment.

(b) The year-wise breakup of cases of illegal routing of incoming international calls detected so far is as under:

1998-1999 - 09  
1999-2000 - 10  
2000-2001 - 29  
2001-2002 - 56  
2002-2003 - 46  
2003-2004 - 32  
2004 till date - 22

In 204 above cases detected so far since first raid in 1998, the approximate national loss of Rs. 350 crores has occurred due to such illegal setups.

(c) The following steps have been taken in the matter to check the bungling:-

(i) Directions have been issued to all the service providers in June 2003 to strictly monitor such illegal cases and take immediate steps to curb such setups.

(ii) Directions have also been issued in October 2004 for handling the telecom Traffic strictly as per provisions of Interconnection Regulation issued by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and within the provisions of license agreement and instructions on and within the provisions of license agreement and instructions on the subject issued by the Government.

(iii) Vigilance Telecom Monitoring cells have been created in 4 places namely Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai. These units will be responsible for curbing such grey market operations.

(iv) Strict action is being taken against the operators who are found involved in such grey market operations.

(v) Public Telephone numbers - 1600-110-420 & 011-23731100 have been opened so that general public call these numbers and provide information of received local numbers when they receive international calls thus helping in detection of such cases.

(vi) Advertisements have been given in the leading newspapers for creating general awareness among the public so that they actively help in providing information of received local numbers when they receive international calls.

(vii) Letters have been written to Indian Embassies abroad to arrange for generating decoy calls for identification of such illegal exchanges.