

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4780
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
ILLEGAL ROUTING OF INTERNATIONAL CALLS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has suffered huge losses due to illegal routing of international calls in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard during 2007-08;
- (c) whether the Government has set up any mechanism to check such illegal routing of international calls in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to make such system more effective?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

- (a) Sir, illegal routing of international calls is assessed to have caused a loss of about Rs. 145 Crores to the Government during the last three financial years.
- (b) Sir, the number of set up detected and the quantum of national revenue loss assessed, pertaining to the year 2007-08 are:

No of Set up	Assessed loss
26	Rs. 18.26 Crores

- (c) Yes, Sir. 34 Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cells have been created under the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) in various Licence Telecom Service Areas and Major Telecom Districts of the country.
- (d) Sir, the VTM Cells, with the help of law enforcement agencies, constantly endeavor to check illegal routing of international calls. VTM Cells also act as the interface between Security Agencies and Licensed Service Providers.
- (e) Sir, the following measure are taken by the Government:
 - (i) An Inter Ministerial Group coordinated by DoT, is in place to look into the enhanced role and functions of VTM Cells and recommend the activities to be carried out by VTM Cells concerning security aspects.
 - (ii) The Government is also setting up a Centre for Communication Security Research and Monitoring, where Call Data Records (CDRs) will be analysed for detection of illegal routing of calls and grey market telecom set up.