

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:336

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2010

ILLEGAL TELECOM SERVICES

Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) whether some telecom companies including foreign ones are illegally operating telecom services especially internet telephony in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such companies;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 336 FOR 19TH APRIL, 2010 REGARDING 'ILLEGAL TELECOM SERVICES'.

(a) to (e) Internet telephony Services are permitted under the scope of Unified Access Service (UAS) in terms of the UAS Guidelines dated 14th December 2005 without any restriction. Similar provisions are there in Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) and Basic Service Licence. Restricted Internet telephony Services [without connectivity to Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) / Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN) in India] are permitted under the scope of Internet Service Licence in terms of Internet Service guidelines dated 1st April 2002 and 24th August, 2007.

Illegal operation of telecom services including Internet Telephony service pertains to provision of telecom services without any Licence or permission. A list of reported cases of illegal telecom services in the last three years is given in the Annexure. On receiving the complaint, actions are taken as per the provisions of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 which includes filing of First Information Report (FIR).

In an endeavor to curb illegal activities in telecom services, 34 Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) units have been created in the country by the Government. Continuous efforts are made for curbing the illegal telecom operations through the TERM units. Also Information Technology Act, 2000 has been amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 w.e.f. 27.10.2009 wherein enabling provisions have been made With reference to services being provided using computer resources including provisions for interception, monitoring and blocking for public access of any information through any computer resource.