

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:316

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2010

LAUNCH OF BLACKBERRY SERVICES

Badal Harsimrat Kaur;Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) whether the Blackberry service launched in the country is security compliant and the security agencies are able to monitor the encrypted data transmitted through Blackberry server;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any policy in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has given permission to start Blackberry services in the country without setting up a server to monitor security concerns;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) 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 (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 316 FOR 16TH AUGUST, 2010 REGARDING "LAUNCH OF BLACKBERRY SERVICES "

(a) & (b) Madam, the security agencies are unable to intercept & monitor a few Blackberry services viz. messenger, chat and enterprise email services in readable format because of complex encrypted communication.

(c) & (d) Yes, the Government has formulated the policy regarding encrypted communication through internet. As per policy's Clause 2.2

(vii), the licensee shall ensure that bulk encryption is not deployed by ISPs. Further, individuals / Groups / Organizations are permitted to use encryption up to 40-bit key length without obtaining permission from the licensor. However, if encryption equipments higher than this limit are to be deployed, individuals / Groups / Organizations shall obtain prior written permission of the licensor and deposit the decryption key with the licensor.

(e) & (f) Blackberry is a hand held device (mobile phone) used for availing the various kinds of services like voice, sms, email, browsing, etc. through licensed telecom service providers. No explicit permission has been given for starting the Blackberry services by the government without setting up server.

(g) The Government is in dialogue with service providers and Research in Motion (RIM), maker of Blackberry device, to find out a solution for interception and monitoring of such services.