

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:981

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

MOBILE PHONES WITHOUT IMEI NUMBER

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

- (a) whether the Government has banned the use of mobile phones without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of connections disconnected in the country, State-wise and company-wise during the last one year; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the persons who are selling these mobile phones in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

- (a) Madam, the Government has instructed to all the Cellular Mobile Service/ Unified Access Service Licensees that calls from mobile handsets with any International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) alongwith without IMEI or all zeroes as IMEI, are not processed and rejected with effect from 24 Hrs. of 30th November 2009.
- (b) Madam, the mobile connection being used in a handset with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of GSMA alongwith without IMEI or all zeroes as IMEI, cannot use mobile services after implementation of the instructions referred in (a) above. However, the mobile service can be availed by the subscriber using a handset with valid IMEI.
- (d) Madam, the import of mobile handsets without IMEI or with all zeroes IMEI is prohibited in the country.