

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:316

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

SECURITY CONCERN IN TELECOM

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy/mechanism to address the security concerns pertaining to telecom sector;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the policy;
- (c) the number of blackberry service users/providers in the country as on date;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to ban the services of blackberry;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the present stand of the Government on blackberry services?

Answer

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

- (a) The Government has amended the Terms and Conditions of the Licences of the Telecom Service Providers to address the security concerns pertaining to telecom sector.
- (b)
 - (i) Telecom Service Providers are responsible for the security of their network. In case of security breach provisions of penalty have been incorporated.
 - (ii) Telecom Service Providers should connect only 'Safe to Connect' devices to their network.
 - (iii) Location based services have been mandated from which it will be easy for security agencies to locate a mobile user.
 - (iv) Telecom Service Providers have been mandated to ensure service continuity by entering into a suitable contract with equipment vendors and suppliers.
- (c) The information on the number of Blackberry connections is being collected.
- (d) & (e) Blackberry service has not been banned.
- (f) The present stand with respect to Blackberry is governed by the licensing conditions that Telecom Service Providers should launch a service only after it has been demonstrated to the security agencies that it can be intercepted.