

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3062

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011

SALE OF PHONE TAPPING DEVICES

Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Mahant Dr. Charan Das;Meena Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain companies have been permitted to import off-the-air phone tapping devices for Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has permitted the procurement of such gadgets;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether several vendors in the country are selling such tapping devices; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) to (f): Passive off-the-air GSM Systems are available in the International market and Telecom operators are mandated to install Legal interception monitoring system as part of their licensing agreement. However, "off-the-air monitoring equipments", which were under the 'Open General License' (OGL), have been taken out of OGL list and put in the restricted list vide Department of Commerce vide Notification No. 53/2009-2014 dated 15th July, 2010. Further, Department of Telecommunications vide Press Release dated 31.12.2010 has directed the persons and companies who have/had imported, procured or possess the equipments/sub systems capable of monitoring/intercepting and surveillance of communications to provide the details of such equipment within the 60 days in the prescribed proforma to the respective Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications.