

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1554
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2011
COMMITTEE ON PHONE TAPPING
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any committee under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to recommend stringent law for phone tapping;
- (b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Union Government;
- (c) if so, the details of recommendations made therein and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) the number of agencies debarred or added in the authorised list for phone tapping in the national interest;
- (e) whether the Government has also received any remarks/suggestions from any courts of law in this regard;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereon alongwith the steps taken to protect the right to privacy of an individual as well as national security?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH)

- (a) to (c): Yes, Madam. The Government constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group headed by the Cabinet Secretary to consider issues relating to institutional framework of Government for interception of messages/tapping of telephone, e-mail etc. As a result, guidelines on telephone interception have been revised and streamlined.
- (d) to (e): There is no change in number of agencies. There is also no remarks/suggestions from Court of law in this regard.
- (f): Rule 419 A of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007 was framed so as to ensure the right balance between privacy of citizens and concerns of national security.