

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5463
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2011
PHONE TAPPING
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been cases of illegal tapping of Phones of Ministers and top officials;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of such cases reported and the action taken against the accused; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (b): In 2010, 'Outlook' magazine published allegations about phone tapping. Union Home Minister in his statement in the Lok Sabha on 26th April, 2010 had inter alia informed the Hon'ble House that " I wish to state categorically that no telephone tapping or eavesdropping on political leaders was authorized by the previous UPA Government. Nor has the present UPA Government authorized any such activity."

(c): Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules 2007 clearly prescribe the process of interception, grounds for interception and the designated competent authority. Any interception undertaken in contravention of these Act / Rules is illegal. Rule 419-A, also provides a detailed oversight mechanism at the Union and at the State level. Further, the Central Government keeps updating the internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) / instructions for processing, executing and conducting oversight of such interceptions to deal both with changing technology and ensuring a strict compliance of Rule 419-A.