

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2645
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
APPOINTMENT OF DATA SECURITY OFFICER
Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked all telecom players to submit detailed comments regarding appointing a Data Security Officer for each telecom company;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure appointment of Data Security Officers in all telecom companies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) & (b) No, Madam. The Government has not asked telecom operators to submit detailed comments regarding appointing a Data Security Officer.

However, the Government has asked telecom service licensees i.e. Access Services/NLD/ILD/ISP to ensure compliance of the following conditions:

- (i) The Chief Officer in charge of technical network operations and the Chief Security Officer should be a resident Indian citizen.
- (ii) The officers/officials of the license companies dealing with the lawful interception of messages will be resident Indian citizens.
- (iii) The majority Directors on the Board of the Licensee company shall be Indian citizens.
- (iv) The positions of the Chairman, Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and/or Chief Financial Officer (CFO), if held by foreign nationals would require to be security vetted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Security vetting shall be required periodically on yearly basis. In case something adverse is found during the security vetting, the direction of MHA shall be binding on the licensee.

Due to security related issues, further amendments to various telecom licenses have been issued in May/June, 2011, which inter-alia states that the licensee shall employ only Resident, trained Indian Nationals as Chief Technical officers/s, Chief Information Security Officer, Nodal Executives for handling interception and monitoring cases and incharge of GMSC, MSC, Softwitch, Central Database, Routers, Switches, Nodes, PoPs, ILD Gateway Switches and System Administrators/s.

(c) This being in the operational interest of the companies themselves. There is no proposal to issue any directions to telecom companies in this regard.