

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:446
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011
PHONE TAPPING
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

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

- (a) the number of private telecom operators providing telecom services in the country, circle-wise;
- (b) whether these companies are allowed to tap the telephone conversations without Government's permission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the action taken by the Government to prevent unlawful phone tapping by telecom operators?

Answer

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

- (a) The number of private operators (Circle-wise) providing Basic/Cellular Mobile Telephone Service/Unified Access Service in the country is placed at Annexure. In addition to this a total number of 25 National Long Distance (NLD) and 22 International Long Distance (ILD) private operators are also operating in the country carrying National/International traffic. These operators are permitted to operate across the country.
- (b) No, Madam.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.
- (d) Unlawful tapping of phone calls is a punishable act under Section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 which envisaged punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine, or with both.