

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4591

ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011

SURVEILLANCE OF TELECOM SERVICES

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

- (a) whether the Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells Vigilance Units meant to monitor all telecommunications services including Mobile Telephony and Internet have been strengthened for tightening surveillance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the sendee providers thereto;
- (c) whether surveillance/monitoring cost is likely to be borne by the service providers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and its likely impact on mobile/internet tariffs;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to set up Centralised Monitoring System for telephone and internet services;
- (f) if so, the salient features thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far; and
- (g) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells are monitoring all the telecom networks for compliance to the licensing conditions. Lawful monitoring of telecom traffic is being carried out by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and TERM Cells are acting as an interface between Telecom Service Providers and LEAs. A detailed analysis of works entrusted to Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells and requirement at different levels have been carried out. The proposal based on this works analysis is under consideration. The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) do not have any reaction specific to the issue.

(c)&(d) The hardware at Licensee's end and software required for monitoring of traffic shall be engineered, provided/installed and maintained by the Licensee at Licensee's cost. However, the respective Government instrumentality shall bear the cost of user end hardware and leased line circuits from the telecom switch to the monitoring centres located as per their choice in their premises or in the premises of the Licensee. The provisions pertaining to this are the part of Licence agreements and are known to the service providers at the time of signing the licence agreements. The cost of the equipments is generally very less compared to the cost of rolling out of network to have any impact on the tariffs.

(e)&(f) Government has decided to set up Centralized Monitonng System (CMS) for lawful interception and monitoring which will enable the electronic provisioning of the targets thereby reducing the manual intervention at many stages as well saving of time.

(g) The project is to be implemented in three phases with a timeframe of 13-14 months each.