

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:927
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
SECURITY THREAT FROM SATELLITE PHONES
Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of foreign tourists having satellite phones have increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any threat to national security on this account; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines made by the Government to check such incidents?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Instances have come to notice regarding use of satellite phones by foreign tourists in India.

(c): Unregulated use of satellite phones could pose a threat to security.

(d): The Central Board of Excise and Customs, Ministry of Finance has issued a circular dated 24th September, 2010 whereby arriving passengers importing satellite phones as baggage are required to declare the same to the Customs on arrival. Further, Department of Revenue has been advised to place a display board at the arrival point of the Immigration check points regarding obligation of the travelers to declare to the Customs authorities whether they are carrying any satellite phones. Besides above, Ministry of Civil Aviation has also been advised to give adequate publicity at airport about the restrictions on the usage of satphones in the country and Ministry of External Affairs have been advised to issue/publish suitable notices in this regard in the Indian Embassies/High Commissions and also inform the visa applicants accordingly. Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued instructions to the Chief Secretaries, DGPs of all the States and Union Territories and Commissioners of Police of Delhi, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune regarding seizure of the unauthorised satellite phones and prosecution of the holder under Section 6 of the Indian Wireless Act and Section 20 of the Indian Telegraph Act.