

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1362

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012

CMS TO TAP TELEPHONIC CONVERSATIONS

Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Rajesh Shri M. B.;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Central Monitoring System (CMS) to tap telephonic conversations without the interference of service providers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the system is developed indigenously or any foreign assistance is sought in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds allocated and spent on the project and the time by which the system is likely to be operational; and i
- (f) the safeguards put in place to prevent the misuse of intercepted communication and ensure individual privacy?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Madam, Government has decided to set up a Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) for lawful interception which will enable the electronic provisioning of the targets across all the Telecom Service Providers in the country.

(c) & (d) The system has been designed and developed indigenously.

(e) An amount of Rs. 400.00 Crores (Four hundred Crores only) has been allocated by the Government for the CMS and an expenditure of Rs. 2.06 Crores (Two Crores and six lakhs only) has been incurred so far. The project has three phases with a time line of 13-14 months each. The project is likely to be completed by August 2014.

(f) The Lawful interception & monitoring of the communications is governed by the provisions of section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and guided by Rule 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rule, 2007; and section 69, 69A, 69B & 70B of Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008. The unlawful interception is a punishable offence under section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 where one shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both,