

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2387

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012

THREAT FROM IMPORTED SIM CARDS .

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

- (a) whether the Government, keeping in view the concerns raised by the security agencies, is actively considering use of domestically manufactured mobile phone SIM cards and discourage foreign made SIM cards in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any instructions to all the telecom service providers in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the service providers thereto;
- (e) whether fake mobile SIM cards are also being used in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a)&(b) Department of Telecommunications has held a meeting with telecom service providers on (Subscriber Identity Module) SIM cards personalization in India. The Advisory Council for Telecom, a joint forum of telecom operators had, inter-alia, intimated that tax structure on SIM import/manufacturing is not conducive for SIM personalization in India. Department of Information Technology (DIT), vide Notification No. 8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10 February 2012, has laid down the policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic products, in procurement of those electronic products which have security implications for the country and in Government procurement for its own use and not with a view to commercial resale or with a view to use in the production of goods for commercial sale. Based on the above notification, each Ministry/Department has to issue notification for providing preference to domestically manufactured electronic products, either for reasons of security or for Government procurement.

(c) No Madam

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e)&(f) Some cases of cloned SIM cards have come to the notice of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). When a case of cloned SIM card comes to the notice of a TSP, genuine subscriber is issued another SIM card having different parameters by TSP. Further, TSPs have tightened the authentication process