

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1945
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES IN TELECOM
Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh

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

- (a) the position enjoyed by Huawei Technologies in the Indian telecom market;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the United States, Canada and Australia have raised concerns against Huawei Technologies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received such warning about the possible security threat posed by Huawei Technologies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) Madam, Telecom Service Providers can deploy various telecom equipment including from Huawei Technologies based on their techno-commercial considerations subject to compliance of terms and conditions of license. Since, there are no restrictions of deploying the equipment from any vendor except complying with license terms and conditions, some Huawei Technologies equipment are also available in the telecom network.

(b) & (c) Government is aware about the Report of Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of US Government titled "Investigative Report on US National security issues posed by Chinese Telecommunications Companies Huawei & ZTE". It is a known fact that in the modern age, telecom equipment and networks used for provisioning of telecom services are prone to spyware/malwares etc, emanating from the equipment itself or embedded software contained in it or from antisocial or anti national individuals or agencies. Such potential threats exist in the network, irrespective of the sources like telecom gear manufactured in China or supplied by some other vendors.

(d) & (e) There is no specific instance has come to notice. However, to address the security concerns related to telecom & telecom Network, comprehensive guidelines in the form of license Amendment have been issued to Telecom service providers on 31.05.2011 in Access Service licenses and on 3rd June' 2011 for other licenses, in consultation with MHA and after due deliberations with Industry. Vide these amendments, it is mandated that Telecom Service Providers are responsible for the security of their network. It is also mandated that only those network elements shall be inducted into their Telecom Network, which have been tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards e.g. IT and IT related elements against ISO/IEC 15408 standards, for Information Security Management System against ISO 27000 series Standards, Telecom and Telecom related elements against 3GP, 3GPP2 security standards etc from any international agency/ labs of the standards e.g. Common Criteria Labs in case of ISO/IEC 15408 standards until 31st March 2013. From 1st April 2013 the certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/labs in India. The copies of test results and test certificates shall be kept by the licensee for a period of 10 years from the date of procurement of equipment, which can be audited / demanded any time during this span, by the licensor. Thus, a framework has already been mandated to deal with potential threats by the induction of Chinese Telecom Equipment or from any other source. So far, no specific issue has arisen due to equipment of any specific country. However, as and when any specific issue arises or a report is received, the regime can be further tightened for the equipments coming from a specific country or source or group of countries.

Government continues to examine all new developments related to Telecom Security and regularly reviews the security arrangement in this regard in the light of such developments. In order to increase the share of telecom equipment manufactured in the country, based on Notification of Department of Electronics & IT vide No. 8(78)/2010-IPHW dated 10th February, 2012, Department of Telecommunications has already issued the Notification vide No. 18-0712010 dated 5th October'2012 regarding domestic telecom equipment for Government procurement and Government projects.