

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2568
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2013
PHONE TAPPING
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

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

- (a) whether the Government has direct access to all telephone conversations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the guidelines for interception of telephonic conversations;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against unlawful phone tapping; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to protect the rights of privacy of individuals?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, Lawful interception & monitoring of the telephone conversation 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.

(c) & (d) The unlawful interception is a punishable offence under section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act 1885, with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to three years, or with fine, or with both.