

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:583
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
OBSCENE OBJECTIONABLE SMSS
Bais Shri Ramesh;Manjhi Shri Hari

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

- (a) the total number of mobile subscribers of various companies as on date, State and company-wise;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that telecom media, particularly Short Message Services (SMSs) on mobiles is reportedly being used to spread obscenity and indecent jokes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken/being taken by the Government to stop such obscene and objectionable SMSs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 583 FOR 8TH MAY, 2013 REGARDING "OBSCENE/OBJECTIONABLE SMSs"

(a) to (d) As on 28.02.2013, the total number of mobile subscribers all over India is 86, 16,70,844. The service area and company wise details are placed at Annexure-I. The details of service area and various states covered therein are placed at Annexure-II.

Short Message Service (SMS) on Mobiles is private communication between the two subscribers and the Government neither monitors nor control the content of messages, except in case of lawful interception of the messages. However the sending of obscene messages is an offence which is punishable under Information Technology (IT) Act 2000 as amended vide IT Act 2008 and the appropriate action is taken by the police on receipt of complaint.