

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:629

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

CMS FOR INTERCEPTION OF TELEPHONES

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar;Singh Shri Dhananjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Central Monitoring System (CMS) to intercept telecommunications;
- (b) if so, the details and salient features thereof along with the time frame fixed for the same;
- (c) whether the telecom sector has prepared any telecom security project for the said purpose and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any oversight mechanism has been set up to prevent breach of privacy of the citizens; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**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 the Centralized Monitoring System for Lawful Interception & Monitoring of telecommunications. The envisaged salient features of CMS are as follows:

(i) Direct Electronic Provisioning of target number by a Government agency without any manual intervention from Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) on a secured network, thus enhancing the secrecy level and quick provisioning of target.

(ii) Central and regional database which will help Central and State level Law Enforcement Agencies in Interception and Monitoring.

(iii) Analysis of Call Data Records (CDR) to help in establishing linkage between anti-social /anti-national elements.

(iv) Research and Development (R&D) in related fields for continuous up-gradation of the CMS.

(c) A project prepared with an estimated cost of Rs. 400 Crores for CMS has been approved by the Government.

(d) & (e) To take care of the privacy of citizens, lawful interception and monitoring is governed by the section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with rule 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2007 wherein oversight mechanism exists in form of review committee under chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary at Central Government level and Chief Secretary of the State at the State Government level. The same mechanism is applicable for the interception under the CMS Project also. Additionally, there is an inbuilt mechanism of check and balance as Security Agencies/Law Enforcement Agencies cannot provision the target and the provisioning agency cannot see the content.