

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:191

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

ESPIONAGE ON INDIAN MISSIONS

Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Punia Shri P.L.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports of various Indian Missions abroad including at multilateral organizations being the target of espionage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken up this matter with the Governments of the countries concerned and proposes to take legal recourse in the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard our Missions against international espionage?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 191 REGARDING "ESPIONAGE ON INDIAN MISSIONS" FOR ANSWER ON 18.12.2013

(a) & (b) Government is aware of media reports stating that the U.S. National Security Agency spied on 38 diplomatic missions of foreign countries, including two Indian missions, the Indian Embassy in Washington DC and the Permanent Mission of India in New York, by implanting bugs and using specialized antennae.

(c) & (d) Government has expressed concern over the reports of monitoring of the two Indian missions by U.S. agencies. We have raised the matter with the U.S. side at senior officials level. A substantive U.S. response is awaited.

(e) Government attaches highest priority to safeguarding of our Missions abroad against international espionage. Our agencies carry out security audits of IT and communications systems in Missions on a regular basis. Government is also working to enhance its capacity to protect data and information flows by building better cyber and telephony infrastructure and by evolving new cyber and telecom security practices.