

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:359

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2009

BAN ON MOBILE SETS

Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Singh Smt. Meena

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

- (a) whether the Department of Telecom has decided to ban mobile sets not having International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers with effect from December, 2009;
- (b) if so, the number of mobile sets likely to become functionless in this regard;
- (c) whether a large number of mobile sets having fake IMEI numbers are being sold in the market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) 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 (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 359 FOR 14TH DECEMBER, 2009 REGARDING "BAN ON MOBILE SETS".

(a) to (e) Directions were issued on 27th April, 2009 that calls from mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) or with all zeroes as IMEI are not processed and rejected with effect from 2400 hours of 30th June, 2009. Further, directions were issued on 3rd September, 2009 that calls from mobile handsets with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of GSMA, (Global System for Mobile Communications Association) along with without IMEI or all zeroes as IMEI are also not processed and rejected with effect from 2400 hours of 30th Nov, 2009. Similar instructions were issued in respect of Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA)-based networks for handsets without Electronic Serial Number (ESN) / Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) numbers.

Since imported and indigenously manufactured mobile handsets are freely available in the market from the beginning of liberalization of telecommunications services sector for provisioning of mobile services and the subscriber is free to procure handsets from the market, the number of mobile sets likely to be functionless as a result of above instructions and the number of mobile sets having fake IMEI numbers cannot be estimated.

Further, Ministry of Commerce has already banned import of mobile handsets without IMEI or with all zeroes IMEI as well as CDMA handsets without ESN / MEID or with all zeroes ESN/MEID.