

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4059
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2014
FOREIGNERS IN TELECOM COMPANIES
Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

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

- (a) whether the telecom operators have engaged foreign nationals and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in high level posts dealing with interception/monitoring as well as crucial telecom infrastructure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether keeping in view the security aspects, the Government has issued or proposed to issue guidelines on such appointments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the telecom operators thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a)&(b) Madam, As such no case has been reported about the deployment of foreign personnel for handling lawful interception related matters. However, the terms and conditions of Unified Licence provides for following provisions in respect of deployment of foreign personnel in telecom companies:

"Para 39.3: The Chief Officer in charge of technical network operations and the Chief Security Officer/Chief Information Security Officer, and in-charge of GMSC, MSC, Soft- Switch, Central Database, ILD Gateway, VSAT Hub, INSAT MSS-R Hub, PMRTS Central/Base Station, GMPCS Gateway, Switches and System Administrators shall be resident Indian citizen .

Para 39.23

(v): The officers/ officials/ Nodal Executives of the Licensee companies dealing with the lawful interception of messages will be resident Indian citizens.

Para 39.23

(vi): The majority Directors on the Board of the Licensee company shall be Indian citizens.

Para 39.23

(vii): The positions of the Chairman, Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and/or Chief Financial Officer (CFO), if held by foreign nationals, would require to be security vetted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Security vetting shall be required periodically on yearly basis. In case something adverse is found during the security vetting, the direction of MHA shall be binding on the Licensee."

There are similar provisions in other licences also.

(c)& (d) As per Standard Operating procedure on lawful interception for TSPs , it is mentioned that there should be a company on-roll resident Indian citizen designated as senior level officer of circle nodal officer and alternate circle nodal officer in the company. In this regard, no adverse comments have been received from Telecom Service Providers.