

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1787
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2014
MOBILE CONNECTION FOR FOREIGNERS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the guidelines issued by the Government regarding mobile connection to foreign nationals;
- (b) whether the Government has received report of misuse of mobile connections given to the foreigners;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the manner in which the address proof and other identity of such subscribers are verified; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to ensure proper verification of identity and to prevent misuse of mobile numbers?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) The Department has issued guidelines on Subscriber Verification on 09.08.2012. The guidelines for issue of mobile connection to foreigners are as follows:

- i. In case of foreign tourists visiting India the copy of Passport with valid Visa stamp shall be treated as proof of identity. For proof of address, the address of local reference which may also be the tour operator shall be taken. In case, there is no local reference, the address of stay (hotel etc) shall be taken.
- ii. Any mobile connection issued to a Foreigner should not have validity beyond the validity of the Visa. In case of foreign tourist the validity of connection should not be beyond the Visa period and also not exceeding 3 months at a time even if the validity of the Visa is beyond 3 months.
- iii. The connection issued to the personnel deployed on ships while at sea shore, shall have validity only till the date they have the permit to stay at the port.
- iv. List of such connections shall be provided every month to DoT /TERM Cell separately while submitting monthly database to DoT/TERM Cell.

According to these guidelines, any foreigner can get a new mobile connection on the basis of Passport with valid Visa Stamp as a Proof of Identity and any local reference or address of Stay (i.e. hotel, etc) as a Proof of Address.

To prevent misuse of mobile connections issued to foreigners, Telecom Service Providers have been mandated not to issue mobile connections to foreigner beyond the validity of the Visa. In case of foreign tourists, the validity of mobile connections should not be beyond the Visa period and also not exceeding 3 months at a time even if the validity of the Visa is beyond 3 months.

The Department has not received any specific complaint related to misuse of mobile connections issued to foreigners till date.