

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1392
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015
WE PHONE APP
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether Intelligence Agencies have asked the Department of Telecommunications to block `We Phone` application as it facilitates spoofing of caller ID and is difficult to identify the location of actual caller;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any suspicious links through `We Phone` has been found;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government on the demand of intelligence agencies?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, a reference from an intelligence agency was received by the Department of Telecommunications to block the 'We Phone App' which facilitates its subscriber to spoof the Calling Line Identification (CLI) through Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) platform. After carrying out the preliminary technical examination, it has been forwarded to Group Coordinator, Department of Electronics & Information Technology, who is the competent authority to issue instructions for blocking for public access of any information through any computer resource.

(c) & (d) Any call initiated from 'We Phone App' application is routed through its server located abroad, and therefore, is difficult to identify /locate the actual calling number/user.

(e) On the issue related to CLI spoofing, Department of Telecommunications had earlier constituted a technical committee which observed that a number of computer/mobile applications offer the facility to spoof Calling Line Identification over Internet. Based on the recommendations of the committee, matter was taken up with the Group Coordinator, Department of Electronics & Information Technology, who issued the direction for blocking such identified websites; however, it is a continuous process. As and when such cases come to the notice of the Department of Telecommunications, these are reported to the Group Coordinator, Department of Electronics & Information Technology.