

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:506  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015  
NATIONAL TELECOM SECURITY POLICY  
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a National Telecommunication Security Policy in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including salient features of the said policy;
- (c) whether the concerns of the security agencies have been addressed in the policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to address their concerns; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(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 LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 506 FOR 29th APRIL, 2015 REGARDING "NATIONAL TELECOM SECURITY POLICY".

(a) to (d) Madam, National Telecom Security Policy is at a draft stage. After vetting by Telecom Commission and discussion in the National Information Board, this Draft Policy has been circulated for inter-ministerial consultations. The Salient features of the Draft Telecom Security Policy are as follows:

(i) It is based on the principles of involvement of stakeholders, international cooperation, suitable regulatory framework, technical solutions to take precedence over regulations and adopting a practical and progressive approach.

(ii) It addresses the various aspects of security related to telecom like communication assistance to Security Agencies, security of Communication, Information & Data, and security of Telecom Network.

(iii) It envisages 'Safe to Connect' Policy which means every network element should be inducted into the network only after getting it security tested and certified from certified/authorised security testing labs.

(iv) Periodic security audit of the telecom network.

(v) Progressively develop indigenous capacity to manufacture electronic telecom equipment and software for Indian Telecom Network.

(e) However, even in absence of finalization of aforesaid policy, the Government is quite alive to the security concerns and they have been addressed through comprehensive security instructions issued in form of amendment to various telecom licenses (i.e. Access Services, National Long Distance and International Long distance Services licenses and Internet Service Providers & VSAT service providers) in consultation with Ministry of Home affairs and Telecom Industry. Subsequently, these security instructions have been included as an integral part of Unified License (UL). The key features of these instructions are as follows:

(i) Licensees shall have organizational policy on security and security management of their networks. Network forensics, Network Hardening, Network penetration test, Risk assessment, actions to fix problems and to prevent such problems from reoccurring etc. should be part of the policy and they should take all measures in respect of these activities.

(ii) The licensee shall employ only Resident, trained Indian Nationals as Chief Technical officer/s, Chief Information Security Officer, Nodal Executives for handling interception and monitoring cases and in-charge of GMSC, MSC, Softswitch, Central Database and System Administrator/s.

(iii) Licensees shall audit their network or get the network audited from security point of view once a year from a network audit and certification agency.

(iv) Licensee shall create facilities for monitoring all intrusion, attacks and frauds and report the same to DoT & CERT-In.

(v) Licensee shall induct only those equipments in the network which are tested as per relevant contemporary security standards from authorized and certified labs.

(vi) Licensee shall keep Audit Trail of all command logs.

(vii) Severe penalty provisions including License terminations are made for non-compliance on account of security.

(viii) Licensee shall keep a record of operation and maintenance procedure in the form of a manual.

(ix) Licensee shall keep a record of supply chain of the products (hardware/software).