

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2712
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2015
Mobile with Fake EMEI Number
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether phones with fake EMEI numbers are being used in the country and the mobile operators are unable to detect such phones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the guidelines issued to mobile operators by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the latest technologies proposed to be adopted by the Government to prevent use of such phones which are posing a serious threat to the national security?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Madam, the incidents of use of phones with fake International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a notification No. 107/(RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated 16th January, 2015 that

(i) Import of 'GSM mobile handsets' (Classified under IT (HS) code '8517') without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) Number with all zeroes, duplicate IMEI or fake IMEI is 'Prohibited'.

(ii) Import of 'CDMA mobile handsets' (classified under ITC (HS) code '8517') without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/ Mobile Equipment Identity (MEID), with all Zeroes as ESN/ MEID, duplicate ESN/MEID or fake ESN/MEID is 'Prohibited'.

Further, GSM mobile handsets with duplicate IMEI or fake IMEI & CDMA mobile handsets with duplicate ESN/ MEID or fake ESN/ MEID are added to the list of 'Prohibited' items for import. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for implementation of Notification No. 107 (RE-2013)/2009-2014 dated 16th January, 2015, has been circulated by the Department of Telecommunications to all the implementing agencies for compliance.

Instructions have also been issued by DoT vide letter dated 27.11.2009 directing all the telecom service providers that calls from mobile handsets with any IMEI number which is not available in the latest updated IMEI database of GSMA or without IMEI or all 'Zero' as IMEI should not be processed and must be rejected with effect from 30.11.2009.
