

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:372
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014
CHECK ON CYBER SNOOPING
Sinha Shri Jayant;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a number of people are using foreign telecom equipment across our wireless and wired telecom networks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any safeguards are in place to prevent cyber snooping and backdoor monitoring of Indian telecom traffic and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the Government proposes to address cyber snooping problems?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) 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 (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 372 FOR 4TH AUGUST, 2014 REGARDING "CHECK ON CYBER SNOOPING"

(a) & (b) Madam, the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) use foreign telecom equipment from vendors of various countries in their wireless and wired telecom networks according to their commercial and technical requirements. The import of telecom equipment was to the tune of Rs. 74,116.21 Crores in 2013-14.

(c) & (d) To address the security concerns related to telecom & telecom network, comprehensive guidelines in the form of license Amendment have been issued to Telecom service providers on 31.05.2011 in Access Service licenses and on 03.06.2011 for other licenses. It is inter-alia mandated through these amendments that

(i) the licensee shall induct only those network elements into his telecom network, which have been got tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards from any international agency/ labs.

(ii) the licensee shall include all contemporary security related features and features related to communication security as prescribed under relevant security standards while procuring the equipment and implement all such contemporary features into the network.

(iii) comply with the conditions of Remote Access (RA).

(iv) the licensee shall create facilities for monitoring all intrusions, attacks and frauds and report the same to the Licensor and to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN).

(v) the 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.