

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2902

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016

Satellite Phones

Kamaraaj Dr. K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism in place to monitor satellite phones which poses serious security threat to the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Madam, at present, there are no commercial satellite phone services being provided in the Country. M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the only Licensee which has been granted a Licenses in August 2014 for "Provision & Operation of Satellite based services using gateway installed in India" under 'sui- generis' category with all India service area on non exclusive basis with administrative approval for financial support for apparatus, plant and related items limiting to \$ 8 million through budgetary resources by Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The License granted to BSNL has provisions for the lawful interception and monitoring of Satellite Phones. Further, based on the recommendation of Ministry of Home Affairs, the import license and frequency allocation for some specific INMARSAT based Satellite Phones/Services (e.g. ISAT-Pro, BGAN) to meet the specific requirement of security agencies/para-military forces/NDRF etc., is being done by DoT, where procurement of such equipment is done by the user agency.
