

**Mobile connections on forged documents**

289. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the private companies have issued huge mobile phone connections on forged documents;

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take against such companies; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to prevent mobile connections going into wrong hands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per license conditions, the mobile telephone service providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as subscriber. Instructions in this regard have been issued from time to time to all the service providers. This includes obtaining proof of identity and address from the subscribers.

It was brought to the notice of the Department of Telecom (DoT) that the mobile service providers are generally not complying with the requirement of subscriber verification. DoT carried out special drive to check this in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and the State of Haryana. It was observed that all the service providers in these places are not fully complying with the instructions on subscriber verification.

Notices have been issued to concerned service providers in the above areas to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification and also to explain why action should not be taken against them for not complying with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.