

Cyber attacks

1203. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many Indian companies are losing several crores every year due to cyber attacks;

(b) if so, whether Government, in consultation with the State Governments, proposes to enact a law to check such cyber attacks;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) whether any separate wing is likely to be created to check such cyber attacks and also to prosecute the culprits involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Cyber attacks such as phishing and information stealing software programmes, denial of service attacks are intended for conducting financial frauds wherein users' personally identifiable information such as credit card details etc. are stolen. Due to these incidents financial institutions (Banks) and users suffer financial losses.

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance has reported online banking frauds worth Rs. 590.49 lakhs in the year 2009.

(b) and (c) The primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of all cases of crime, including cyber crimes, lies with the concerned State Government(s). The Union Government however attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention of crime. The information Technology Act 2000 is a Central Act to address cyber crimes and is applicable in all the States/Union Territories. The cyber crimes are technology driven crimes and with changing technologies new crimes need to be addressed. Aware of this fact, the Government has amended the Act and further strengthened the legal framework. The IT (Amendment) Act, 2008 which came into force from 27.10.2009 has special provisions for checking new forms of cyber crimes like phishing, identity theft, data privacy etc. The Act provides legal frame work to address the cyber crimes seen largely at present.

(d) The State Police Departments have set up separate cyber police stations/cells in many states/Union Territories which handle all the cyber crime cases including cyber attacks.

3640 post-paid connections to one company

†1204. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Idea Cellular Company had issued 3640 post-paid connections to a single person and his company, Limco Sales Corporation, Delhi;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) whether providing so many connections to a single person is as per rules;
- (c) whether it is a fact that he rented out these connections to other people; and
- (d) whether this does not endanger national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence condition *inter-alia* provides that “Utmost vigilance should be exercised in providing bulk telephone connections for a single user as well as for a single location. Provision of 10 or more connections may be taken as bulk connections for this purpose. Special verification of bonafide should be forwarded to respective Vigilance Telecom Monitoring (VTM) Cell of DoT, DDG (Security) DoT and any other office authorized by Licensor from time to time as well as all security agencies on monthly basis”.

(c) As per report of VTM cell New Delhi, the bulk connections issued by service provider M/s Idea Cellular Limited to Limco Sales Corporation has been rented out to other customers.

(d) Ministry of Home Affairs have intimated that security agencies are facing problems in establishing the identity of actual user of a particular mobile connection in Cases where bulk connections are activated in the name of a single user/location/organization and the numbers are further distributed/rented to individuals for their use. This practice of providing mobile connections to an individual without maintaining his identity particulars has security implications and operational activities of security agencies are hampered due to non-availability of identity of a particular suspected target.

Reimbursement of 3G and BWA spectrum

1205. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from BSNL management as well as employees unions for reimbursement of 3G and BWA spectrum charges of Rs. 18,500 crore paid by BSNL to Government; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance to consider favorably the request of BSNL for reimbursement of spectrum charges paid towards 3G and BWA spectrum since BSNL is the only service provider giving connectivity to the far flung rural areas. The services rendered by BSNL in the rural areas of the country cannot be replicated. BSNL has borrowed heavily to finance payment of spectrum charges and which is shouldering social and Governmental obligations.