

Uniform Policy for Telecom Equipments

2738. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while private telecom companies were procuring telecom equipments from Chinese vendors, the BSNL was barred procuring the equipments from the same Chinese companies on the ground of security concerns;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination;

(c) if not, whether any action is being taken to remove this discrimination and have a uniform policy for all; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Sir, in the interest of national security, the Government had directed Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in May, 2009 that resources should not be procured from the Chinese vendors for deployment in the sensitive regions of Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.

(b) Participation of foreign companies in strategic sector has bearing on national security. BSNL being a Public Sector Undertaking, its network has to be relied upon in emergency.

(c) and (d) Amendment in the Unified Access Services (UAS)/Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS)/Basic Services License Agreements and template of agreement between telecom service provider and vendor of equipment/software/services has been issued on 28-07-2010 in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, to address the security concerns in procurement of equipment from foreign vendors. Accordingly, now BSNL may enter into agreement with foreign vendors for purchase of equipments/software/services.

Data made available to Security Agencies

2739. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central investigative agencies could not snoop into the networks provided by tele-communication agencies;

(b) whether the Department of Telecom (DoT) has asked these companies to either ensure that data going through their networks be made available to security agencies in a readable format or face a ban from offering services in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) It is mandatory for the telecom service providers to install Lawful Interception and Monitoring (LIM) system before launch of telecom services. In case of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) LIM systems are installed at Internet nodes of ISPs as per the requirements of Securities Agencies. However, security agencies are not able to obtain the interception in readable format where complex encryption is used in communication.

(b) to (d) Yes, DoT has asked Telecom Service Providers to provide technical solution for interception and monitoring of certain services provided through Blackberry devices in readable format to Law enforcement agencies. In case no solution is provided, these services may be banned by the Government.

Waiting List for BSNL Service in M.P.

†2740. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that places where mobile services are being provided in Madhya Pradesh, there is still a long waiting list and despite that people want to get BSNL service;

(b) whether the Central Government is not able to provide service due to non availability of SIM; and

(c) if so, by when SIM would be made available and waiting list would be cleared?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.