

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: