

Mobile cloning

†*67. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether complaints regarding misuse of mobile cloning are being received;
- (b) whether Government has any action plan to check such mobile cloning; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Government has come to know through Telecom Service Providers that approximately 2150 cases of misuse of mobile cloning through duplication of subscriber identity in different parts of country have come to their notice during 2009-10. Cloning of subscriber identity takes place by duplication of SIM (Subscriber Identity Modules) in GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) and R-UTM (Removable User Identity Module)/ESN (Electronic Serial Number) & MTN (Mobile Identification Number in CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) Networks, which gives the subscriber an identity and telephone number.

(b) and (c) Though, cloning of subscriber identity is difficult due to elaborate authentication and encryption mechanism used in mobile network, Government intends to monitor mobile cloning, through its field units namely TERM (Telecom Enforcement, Resource & Monitoring) Cells, which are already carrying out activities of similar type.

Telecommunication system in Uttarakhand

†*68. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Ministry to strengthen the telecommunication system in the districts along the border in Uttarakhand;
- (b) the details of status of telecommunication in border districts at present; and
- (c) whether any special steps are being taken by Government in this regard keeping in view this border State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Sir, for the provisioning of telecom services, the State of Uttarakhand which is one of the 26 Telecom Circles of BSNL, is a part of Uttar Pradesh (West) license service area. BSNL is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.