

Postal services losing trust of people

2692. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the postal services is miserably in shambles today losing thereby the trust of the people; and

(b) if so, the measures that are being taken to make this Aam Admi's means of communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Interception of Blackberry data

2693. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that security agencies expressed their inability to intercept Blackberry data;

(b) the reasons that Blackberry is failing to provide a solution to intercept its enterprise mailing service; and

(c) in what manner Government is planning to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Sir, Voice, SMS and individual e-mail communication can be intercepted and monitored by Security Agencies in readable format. However, Security Agencies are not able to intercept and monitor the communication made through Blackberry Messenger Service and Blackberry Enterprise Service in readable format.

(b) As per Research in Motion (RIM), provider of Blackberry services, communication in case of enterprise e-mail is encrypted from device to device and key is dynamically created by Blackberry device. There is one to one correspondence between the key at device and the key at enterprise e-mail server, placed at the premises of enterprise customer. They have also stated that they cannot create any third party access in readable format because they do not have the key, which is dynamically generated.

(c) Government is engaged with Research in Motion (RIM), the provider of Blackberry services, to find out a solution for the interception and monitoring of messenger chat and enterprise e-mail using Blackberry phone.

Access to calls and data to security agencies

2694. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to make it mandatory for all internet and telecom service operators to extend access to calls and data passing through networks to security agencies;

(b) whether non-compliance of Government directive can result into a ban on internet and telecom operators;

(c) if so, the complete details thereof;

(d) whether Research In Motion (RIM) and DoT have devised a method for intercepting Blackberry messages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. As per terms and conditions of the license, it is mandatory that Service Providers will facilitate lawful interception and monitoring as per request of security agencies. The service providers shall put adequate and effective internal checks to ensure that unauthorized interception of message does not take place and extreme secrecy is maintained.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Making provision for lawful interception and monitoring is one of the terms and conditions of the license for the service providers. Lawful interception and monitoring has a bearing on public interest and National Security also. For non-fulfilling the license terms and conditions or when it is expedient to do so in public interest or in the interest of Security of the State, Government reserves the right to suspend the operation of license. For non-fulfilling terms and conditions of license a penalty up to Rs. 50/- crores can also be imposed on the service providers as per provisions of license agreement. Further, as per Section 26 of the Indian Telegraph Act-1885, for omitting to intercept a message authorized by law can result in imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or both.

(d) and (e) To intercept and monitor its messenger service in readable format, Research in Motion (RIM) has offered a solution to security agencies, which is currently under test by MHA.

Spectrum management and licensing framework

2695. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI had submitted its recommendations on spectrum management and licensing framework and Mobile Virtual Network Operators on 11 May, 2010 and August, 2008 respectively;