

(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;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking a decision on each of the important recommendations even after a long gap even when these issues are being debated everywhere right from the Parliament to the Supreme Court;

(c) whether Government has formulated any time-frame for taking a final decision on these recommendations of TRAI;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had submitted its recommendations dated 11.05.2010 on 'Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework' and recommendations dated 06.08.2008 on 'Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNO)'.

(b) The recommendations on MVNO were examined by the Government wherein certain recommendations were referred back to TRAI for reconsideration. While the matter was being examined for preparation of detailed guidelines for MVNO, TRAI issued its Recommendation on 'Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework'. In view of the new licensing framework recommended by TRAI, it has been decided to seek the TRAI's opinion regarding MVNO after the decision of the Government on the said recommendations of TRAI on 'Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework' so as to avoid any contradiction in policy implementation. As far as the recommendations on 'Spectrum Management and Licensing Framework' are concerned, the TRAI has further, on 18.05.2010, requested the Government to await its recommendations on spectrum pricing and refarming. The Government has already constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Technology), Telecom Commission to examine these recommendations.

(c) to (e) Being a matter of policy formation, which also requires inter-ministerial consultations, it is not feasible to specify a time frame.

Post offices of Orissa with modern facilities

2696. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to modernize main post offices in various cities of Orissa under its "Project arrow";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to equip all main post offices in Orissa with modern facilities viz. e-money order, single window service system etc., in order to reduce wait time for customers?