

Privacy of internet service users

996. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Intelligence Bureau has asked DoT to direct Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to keep a record of all online activities of customers for a minimum of six months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the response of Government and ISPs to the above;
- (d) whether keeping such records can threaten customer's privacy and security; and
- (e) the measures Government proposes to ensure protection of customers using the internet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) No communication has been received from Security Agencies in DoT to direct Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to keep a record of all online activities of customers.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Premature exit of service providers from rural telephony

997. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons that RCom and Bharti approached Government for premature exit from the rural telephony scheme under the USO without fulfilling the commitments made by winning the bids in 2007;
- (b) will the Ministry ban the nonperforming service providers from participating in the next round of bidding which would be launched soon;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether it is a fact that there is no exit policy in place as a result of which Government is in dilemma about the course of action; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor?