

On receipt of memoranda from the State Government on the damages caused by the recent by the recent floods, Central Teams were constituted which have already visited the State from 1-4 November, 2010 and again from 17-19 December, 2010 to assess the damages caused and to recommend the additional assistance to the State. The reports of the Teams have been processed and are being placed before the High Level Committee (HLC) for its consideration in the next meeting. An Inter Ministerial Central Team has again visited the State from 7-10th February, 2011 to assess the damages caused due to floods in December, 2010.

Off-the-air GSM/CDMA devices to tap phones

244. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report submitted by the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), off-the-air GSM/CDMA monitoring devices are freely available in private hands in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such individuals or business houses who have procured such off-the-air GSM/CDMA devices to tap phone conversation privately;

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government by nabbing such persons so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT):
(a) to (d) NTRO and other Central Intelligence Agencies had brought out the fact that the equipment used for off-the-air GSM monitoring was a dual use item which is also needed/used in usual telecom operations by Telecom Service Providers and others. Hence, *vide* Department of Commerce notification No. 53/2009-2014 dated 15th July 2010 - such equipment has been removed from the OGL list.

Further, Department of Telecommunication *vide* Press Release dated 31-12-2010 has directed the persons and companies who have/had imported, procured or possess the equipments/sub systems capable of monitoring/intercepting and surveillance of communications to provide the details of such equipment within the 60 days in the prescribed proforma to the respective Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells of Department of Telecommunications.