

Horticulture Mission, National Mission on Micro-Irrigation, National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility, Rainfed Area Development Programme, Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms etc., which will lead to increased productivity and production of various crops and benefit farmers. Total plan outlay for Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been increased by 18 per cent in 2012-13 over 2011-12.

Telecom security policy

*612. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States has criticised India's tough stand in its draft telecom security policy and demanded a review of the clauses that hurt business interests of American companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new policy is tipped to address country's concerns regarding 15 forms of communications including Google's Gmail, RIM's Black Berry services among others, which cannot be tracked by enforcement agencies on a realtime basis and the country is keen to secure its mobile network; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Sir, a communication has been received from the office of the United States Trade Representative stating their views on the Draft National Telecom Security Policy. The draft Telecom Security Policy has been generally taken well by them. However, the United States side has expressed some concerns over the issue of national (Indian) test standards, security testing of telecom equipment in India and linking of manufacturing of telecom equipment in India with the enhancement of the security in the policy.

(c) and (d) Government has mandated all the Telecom Service Providers and the Internet Service Providers to provide the Lawful Interception and Monitoring facilities to the security agencies for all the services including Google's Gmail, RIM's blackberry services, as a part of their license agreement. As such Security agencies are able to intercept the services including Google's Gmail, RIM's blackberry through the lawful interception facilities provided by the Telecom Service Providers. However, Security Agencies have intimated that they are not able to decrypt some encrypted intercepted communication to readable format. The Telecom Service Providers have stated that they have provided the requisite

interception facilities to Security Agencies. With regard to decrypting the intercepted communication, it is stated that Telecom Service Providers are mere carriers, who are not supposed to know the content of the intercepted messages and may not be able to decrypt the content.

World over several services providers including Google's Gmail, RIM's blackberry services are providing services for sharing audio, video, image, email, data and accessing other web services anytime and anywhere in a secure manner. The security of these services is achieved through encryption technology. These services are mostly availed by the citizens across world through Internet either in their individual capacity or as part of commercial activities. There are multifarious aspects involved in dealing with the issues related to such communication services such as technical, international relationship, legal and regulatory policy, commercial and security requirements etc.

A technical committee established by the Government analysed all the above issues in order to work out an appropriate solution to the problem which balances the requirements of Security Agencies with the secured communication needs of trade, commerce and industry. The complexities involved in the issue resulted in the committee being unable to come out with unanimous conclusive recommendations. The report of the committee and the comments of some of the members on the Report were referred to a high level panel of experts who have since submitted their final recommendations on a focused and practical approach to deal with the entire issue. Government, however, continue to interact with the telecom service Providers and other stakeholders to deal with the security related issues in the telecom sector including interception and monitoring of encrypted communication service such as offered by RIM, Google's Gmail, etc.

The Draft National Telecom Security Policy also provides for a similar framework for interception and monitoring in a consolidated and systematic manner.

Loan to farmers

†*613. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of small and marginal farmers in the country have average agricultural holdings of about 1.3 hectares;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and their actual number;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has been recommended to provide nine per cent of the total loan being provided in agricultural sector by Government banks to the farmers of this category; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.