

available to various states to avoid duplication of effort by various States in developing similar solution.

There is a growing trend to provide e-governance applications as service (ASP) hosted on National Data Centres of NIC to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize investment on ICT infrastructure.

Cell phone tracking

2549. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry would consider introducing a legal framework on privacy and data protection for cell phone tracking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA): (a) to (c) Sir, for the privacy of communications and data through telephone network, communication content and data pertaining to communication including the available phone location can be obtained by authorized agencies only as per provisions of section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and Rule 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules' 2007 and available phone location as per relevant provisions of Criminal Procedure Code also.

For unauthorizedly accessing such content and data, penal provisions are contained in the Section 26 of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, according to which such person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

To further strengthen the provisions of privacy Government is drafting an overarching legislation that will provide protection to individuals in case their privacy is breached through unlawful means.

Telephone bills of members of TAC

†2550. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether even after completion of tenure of Telecom Advisory Committee (TAC) in Mumbai last year, one of its officials continued telephone services of members without obtaining their consent and a matter regarding issuing of telephone bills to them under economy plan has come to light;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.