

(c) whether Government has also received representatives about illegal intercepting of phone calls by several agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A press release was given by DoT on 31.12.2010 and a public notice was issued on 22nd March, 2011 as well as on 28.7.2012 that possession and use of such equipment is against the provisions of Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and is liable to be punished with imprisonment for the term which may extend up to three years or with fine, or with both. Independently, the State Governments and other LEAs were also sensitized and directed to make special efforts to locate and seize such equipment which has no authorisation. This is still in process as the Central Intelligence Agencies had brought out the fact that equipment used for 'Off the Air' GSM monitoring equipment is a dual use item which may/is also needed/used in the legitimate operations of telecom Service Providers and others.

(c) to (d) In 2010, 'Outlook' magazine published allegation about phone tapping. Union Home Minister in his statement in the Lok Sabha on 26th April, 2010 had *inter alia* informed the Hon'ble House that "I Wish to state categorically that no telephone tapping or eavesdropping on political leaders was authorised by the previous UPA Government. Nor has the present UPA Government authorised any such activity."

#### **Fire safety in high rise buildings**

2709. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out at the Punjab National Bank Headquarters at Parliament Street on 23 May, 2012 resulting in huge losses of properties etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether proper fire fighting systems were not available at the PNB building resulting in huge loss of properties;

(d) if so, whether several high rise buildings in the city are not equipped with the fire fighting systems and posing threat to the lives of persons living/working in such buildings; and

(e) if so, the steps Union Government proposes to take to ensure safety in high rise buildings across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A fire broke out at the Punjab National Bank building, Parliament Street, Patel Chowk, New Delhi on 23.05.2012 at 1641 hrs. The fire was brought under control and the fire was completely extinguished at 1855 hrs. The fire was restricted to the place of origin, *viz.* Ground floor, and only the property at ground floor *i.e.* furniture, electrical equipments and bank records were affected.

(c) The building was constructed prior to 1983 and was issued NOC under the provisions of Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act 1986 and Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Rules 1987. After the fire incident, the inspection was conducted on 24.05.2012 and the shortcomings were communicated to the management on 05.06.2012 for rectification at the earliest.

(d) High-rise buildings authorizedly constructed in Delhi have clearance from the Delhi Fire Service after the enforcement of Delhi Building Bye-Laws-1983. the buildings constructed prior to 1983 were also inspected under the provisions of Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act 1986 and Rules 1987 and issued NOC after verifying the compliance of the provisions.

(e) The Government of Delhi has enacted Delhi Fire Service Act 2007 and Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010, which are more comprehensive legislation concerning fire and life safety in high-rise buildings in Delhi and the said Act and Rules have come into force with effect from 01.07.2010. The construction of high-rise buildings in Delhi has, therefore, would be better monitored from fire safety point of view. The said Act and Rules also require renewal of Fire Safety Certificate after every three years for Commercial buildings and after 5 years for Residential buildings. In addition to this these also require submission of form 'K' declaring the operability and availability of the fire prevention and safety measures under law.

#### **Kashmiri youths joining militancy**

2710. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after lull for sometime, Kashmiri youths are joining the ranks of militancy in a big way;