

agencies during 2007-2010, containing details of import of multi channel GSM/CDMA receiver, transmitter and trans-receivers, compiled by Central Board of Excise and Customs was forwarded by Ministry of Home Affairs to Department of Telecommunications for examination. During scrutiny, it came to notice that such kind of multi channel GSM/CDMA receivers, transmitter and trans-receivers are dual use items which can be used in normal mobile Base Transceiver stations (BTS) for legitimate operations of Telecom Service Providers and others. Equipment like mobile phones, filters etc. were also included in the said list.

Since, no private agency so far has confirmed or found to have imported 'off-the-air monitoring equipment', therefore, no show-cause notice has been issued to any private agency.

(c) In order to sensitize the State Government and other Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Union Home Secretary had a meeting with all Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police on 31.05.2011 and directed to make special efforts to locate and seize such equipment which has no authorization. One of the central designated agencies has been nominated to take safe custody of such equipment from Government law enforcement agencies, if any.

(d) The monitoring of telephone conversation is governed by the provisions of Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and guided by Rule 419A of Indian Telegraph (Amendment), Rules 2007. Thus, unauthorized use of any equipment including 'Off-the-air monitoring equipment' for interception and monitoring is illegal.

(e) and (f) D As per the verification carried out so far, no case from any company regarding availability of 'Off-the-air monitoring equipments' and usage thereof, could be established. But, taking cognizance of the risk posed by such equipment, the equipment which could be used to tap the communication off-the air have been moved to 'Restrictive List' from the 'Open General Licence' (OGL) list *vide* Department of Commerce notification No. 53/2009-14 dated 15-07-2010.

#### **Complaints regarding catering licences**

\*308. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received several complaints regarding allotment of catering licences ever since procedure under the New Catering Policy, 2010 came into effect;

- (b) if so, number of such complaints received till date alongwith action taken thereon;
- (c) whether Railways are prepared to review the present procedure for allotment of catering licences;
- (d) whether Railways have also received numerous complaints regarding quality and price of food served inside trains and in canteens of railway stations; and
- (e) if so, whether Railways would consider utilizing services of women Self Help Groups in preparing and serving quality food inside coaches and in railway canteens?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No complaints have been received in allotment of catering licences after the implementation of New Catering Policy, 2010.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The present procedures for allotment of catering licences are based on the policy guidelines of the New Catering Policy issued on 21st July, 2010. Review of policy is an ongoing process.
- (d) Yes, Sir. However, the numbers of complaints on overcharging, quality of food and others have been reduced by 15.1% during the last one year as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.
- (e) Women Self Help Groups can also apply for award of catering contracts subject to fulfilment of laid down terms and conditions.

#### **Fertilizer prices**

\*309. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of impact of non-adoption of benchmark pricing for the year 2012-13 in comparison with years 2010-11 and 2011-12 when such benchmark prices were adopted;
- (b) the details of criteria used to fix benchmark prices;
- (c) the comparative prices of all decontrolled fertilizers before and after the prices were de-controlled and the reasons for increase in fertilizer prices; and