

Partnership with chinese companies in communication sector

†1496. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that some Indian Companies have entered into partnerships with Chinese companies in the communications sector;
- (b) if so, the names of those companies;
- (c) whether partnerships by private companies with Chinese companies will not pose a danger to the secrecy of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Sir, Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are allowed to deploy telecom equipments in their network based on their techno-commercial considerations subject to compliance of terms and conditions of license. Accordingly, some foreign companies including Chinese companies have entered into Communications Sector and have supplied mobile and broadband equipments to TSPs. Foreign companies including Chinese companies are also supplying mobile handsets and set top boxes. However, as per information available with Department of Telecommunications, none of Telecom Service Providers have entered into partnership with Chinese Companies in the Communication Sector. However, M/s Huawei Telecommunications (India) Pvt. Ltd. has been given security clearance by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to set up a unit for Electronics/Telecom Hardware and support services at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Government is aware that in modern age, the telecom equipments and networks used for provisioning of telecom services are prone to spyware/malwares etc., if attempted by the outfits, antisocial or anti national elements. To ensure that such miscreants are not able to damage/hamper our telecom infrastructure, a comprehensive security guideline in the form of license Amendments have been issued to Telecom Service Providers on 31.05.2011 in Access Service Licenses and on 3rd June, 2011 for other licenses (later made part of Unified License also), in consultation with MHA and after due deliberations with Industry.

Vide these amendments, it is mandated that Telecom Service Providers are responsible for the security of their network. It is also mandated that only those

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

network elements shall be inducted into their Telecom Network, which have been tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards.

Further, it has also been mandated under license term and conditions that the Chief Officer in charge of technical network operations and the Chief Security Officer/ Chief Information Security Officer, and in-charge of GMSC, MSC, Soft-Switch, Central Database, ILD Gateway, VSAT Hub, INSAT MSS-R Hub, PMRTS Central/Base Station, GMPCS Gateway, Switches and System Administrators shall be resident Indian citizen.

Thus, a framework has already been mandated to deal with potential threats by the induction of Chinese Telecom Equipment or from any other source. So far, no specific issue has arisen due to equipment originating from any specific country. However, Government continues to examine all new developments related to Telecom Security and regularly reviews the security arrangement in this regard in the light of such developments.

In order to increase the share of telecom equipment manufactured in the country, Department of Telecommunications has already issued the Notification *vide* No. 18-0712010 dated 5th October, 2012 regarding domestic telecom equipment for Government procurement and Government projects.

Free roaming service

†1497. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite instructions of Government the private telecom operator companies are not ready to provide free roaming facility;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the time by which the consumers would get free roaming facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Sir, "One Nation - Free Roaming" is one of the objectives of National Telecom Policy (NTP) 2012. Being a predominantly tariff related issue, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) floated a consultation paper on 'Review of Tariff for National Roaming' on 25.02.2013. As per the comments received from the stakeholders, majority of the stakeholders were not in favour of Home Price Rule (HPR) in the national roaming service. Stakeholders were strongly averse to a regime in which incoming calls while on national roaming would become free.

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