

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 62
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 2024**

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS

62 Shri Jawhar Sircar:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Virtual Private Network (VPN) service providers in India or from outside are covered by the Telecommunications Act;
- (b) whether VPN users in India are under the ambit of the Act and can they download or access VPNs that do not have operations in India;
- (c) whether it is legal to use browsers like Tor which smudge any surveillance attempt on online activity; and
- (d) whether "Smart Routing" servers, located outside India, which allow people to connect to Indian IP addresses from a remote server, will be under this new law and 2022 CERT-In regulations?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (d) Various License Agreements issued under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 provide terms and conditions related to provision of Virtual Private Networks by Telecom Service Providers.

In terms of the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2008, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) has issued cyber security directives on 28.04.2022. The directives are available on the CERT-IN website and are self explanatory.
