

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 200
ANSWERED ON 06TH AUGUST, 2026**

TRANSPARENCY AND SAFEGUARDS IN NEW TELECOM RULES

200 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has notified new rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and reviewed their impact on consumers, telecom operators and citizens;
- (b) the details of concerns received regarding possible misuse of surveillance provisions, protection of personal data and citizens' right to privacy;
- (c) the outcome of any independent assessment conducted on cybersecurity preparedness of telecom networks, prevention of digital frauds and protection of critical communication infrastructure;
- (d) the impact of these rules on small telecom providers, competition and consumer interests in the telecom sector; and
- (e) the measures taken to ensure transparency, accountability and protection of citizens' rights while implementing the new telecom framework?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION
(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)**

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF RAJYA SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 FOR 06th AUGUST, 2026 REGARDING “TRANSPARENCY AND SAFEGUARDS IN NEW TELECOM RULES”ASKED BY SHRI SANJAY RAUT.

(a): In line with the Government’s pre-legislative consultative policy, 15 rules have been notified under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 after public consultation and considering the suggestions and comments from various stakeholders, including consumers, telecom operators and citizens. Based on the experience of implementation of law and the feedback received from stakeholders, the impact of relevant legislative provisions, including the said rules, is reviewed from time to time with a view to better achieve the purposes of the law through amendments as necessary.

(b): No specific concerns regarding misuse of the provisions of Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024 have been received. These rules have been notified pursuant to Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 which provides for the interception of messages, subject to such procedures and safeguards as may be prescribed by rules.

(c): The Telecommunications Act, 2023 under Section 22, provides for statutory framework for telecom cybersecurity. Pursuant to said provision, the Telecommunications (Telecom Cyber Security) Rules, 2024 and the Telecommunications (Critical Telecommunication Infrastructure) Rules, 2024 have been notified, requiring among other things, every telecom entity to adopt a cybersecurity policy and undertake annual internal cybersecurity audits and independent external cybersecurity audits once every three years. The external audit is to be conducted by a Network Certification Agency accredited to internationally recognised standards such as ISO/IEC 27001/ ISO/IEC 27011 to assess network resilience and ensure implementation of corrective measures. This audit includes Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) and is also required whenever there is significant change in network configuration.

The implementation of audit recommendations and closure of security observations are monitored by the respective License Service Area (LSA) offices of the Department.

(d) and (e): The rules made under the Telecommunications Act, 2023 contain provisions that serve to promote the competition in the sector. These include a larger territorial extent of the smallest service area for license or authorisation, which has increased earlier from a district to a telecom circle, under the rules, with such circle covering the territory of one or more States or Union territories. The rules also permit sharing of telecommunication infrastructure among various telecommunication service providers and for the provision of telecommunication services under various licenses or authorisations held by the same telecommunication service provider; this was not permissible earlier. These provisions have made it easier for smaller service providers to expand their services to serve a larger territory and customer base without having to obtain additional permission and to optimise the cost of their operation, thereby promoting competition and subserving consumer interest through reduction in the cost of providing services and fostering a more competitive market in the provision of telecommunication services.

The rules also provide that while provisioning services to users, to protect their rights and interests, telecommunications service providers shall adopt number of measures, including the following:

- (i) To inform and publish on its website the process and procedure for users to request or register for services;
- (ii) To register demand for principal telecommunication services from all users without discrimination and provide such services wherever technically feasible; and

- (iii) To not discriminate among users in provision of principal telecommunication services on commercial principles.

Further, digital-by design implementation of the rules promotes ease of doing business through integrated digital workflows, and enhances transparency and accountability.
