

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.160**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2018

**TAMPERING WITH EMBASSY PHONE LINES**

†160. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

- (a) whether any incident regarding tampering with telephone lines of the Indian Embassy in America as well as duping has come to the notice of the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether such type of incident has been reported for the first time and if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) & (b) As per the information available, no case of tampering with the telephone lines of the Embassy of India in Washington DC has been reported. However, there have been reported instances of fraudulent phone calls received by Indian nationals living in the USA, probably by spoofing the land line number of the Mission.

(c) Mission has asked the concerned local authorities and it took up the matter with the telephone service provider. It also published advisory on its website, advising members of the public not to entertain suspicious telephone calls or transfer any money in response to such calls, and to report such matters to the Embassy.

\*\*\*\*\*