GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 458
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12th DECEMBER, 2018

NATIONAL TELECOM SERVICE POLICY

458. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government has put in place or proposes to put in place the National Telecommunication Security Policy in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof including salient features of the said policy;

(c)   whether all the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) are following the instructions issued by the Government regarding security audit of telecom equipments, if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   if not, the action taken/being taken by the Government against erring TSPs, TSP-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b)   The "National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018", which was notified on 22nd October, 2018, under the Chapter, "Secure India: Ensuring Sovereignty, Safety and Security of Digital Communications" has provisions which cover National Telecommunications Security and related aspects. The salient features stipulated in the goals under this chapter are as below:

i.   Establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals and facilitates India's effective participation in the global digital economy
ii.   Ensure that net neutrality principles are upheld and aligned with service requirements, bandwidth availability and network capabilities including next generation access technologies
iii.   Develop and deploy robust digital communication network security frameworks
iv.   Build capacity for security testing and establish appropriate security standards
v.   Address security issues relating to encryption and security clearances
vi.   Enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services

(c) & (d)   Yes, all the TSPs are following the instructions issued by DoT regarding security audit of telecom equipments. The details of the instructions on audit to be carried out by TSPs are stipulated in para 39.6 of the License Agreement of Unified License which reads as below:

"In furtherance of organizational security policy, the LICENSEE shall audit its network or get the network audited from security point of view once in a financial year from a network audit and certification agency. The first audit may be carried out in the financial year succeeding the financial year of the signing of the LICENSE/ Service authorization. The LICENSEE is free to engage the service of any agency for this purpose, which is certified to carry out the audit as per relevant ISO standards. Presently ISO 15408 and ISO 27001 standards are applicable."

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