

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1465
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

SURVEILLANCE OF CALLS

1465. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to monitor and put surveillance in all calls from landline and mobile service and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether such surveillances will protect the users from spyware and or third party hackers; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to protect telecom users from spyware and hackers?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) No Sir. There is no such proposal with Government to monitor and to put under surveillance all calls from landline and mobile service.
- (b) In view of the answer at (a) above, the question does not arise.
- (c) Legal provisions exist in Indian Telegraph Act 1885 under Sections 5(2), 7(2)(b) and 26 regarding making away with or altering or unlawfully intercepting or disclosing message, or divulging purport of signals. Sections 43, 43A, 66 of Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provide for dealing with civil contraventions for crimes related to spyware and hackers. Government has mandated the Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), under the Unified License, to ensure protection of privacy of communication.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is tracking cyber threats affecting users and issuing advisories to users regarding best practices to be followed for protection of information and securing computers and mobile devices. Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has conducted a proof of concept to establish Telecom Security Operation Centre to secure the telecom network and its users.
