

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 142**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY, 2021/ MAGHA 13, 1942 (SAKA)

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON PHONE TAPPING

142. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has refused to disclose information under the RTI Act on queries regarding phone tapping and interception;

(b) if so, the reasons given by the Ministry for withholding this information, given the fact that the Ministry had previously provided this information, under various RTIs, like the one filed in 2013; and

(c) the percentage of the total RTI applications received by the Ministry during the last five years which have been rejected?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) to (c): Lawful Interception and Monitoring is carried out by the authorized Law Enforcement Agencies with the approval of the Competent Authority as per Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with Rule 419-A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. As per section 8(a) of the RTI Act, 2005, the disclosure of such information is exempted, which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty

and integrity of India, the security of the State, relations with foreign States or lead to incitement to the commission of an offence. Further, any disclosure of interception related information defeats the very purpose of lawful interception. All RTI applications received are replied to as per the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.
