

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1587
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th JULY, 2021**

PROVISION FOR BULK ENCRYPTION IN UNIFIED LICENSE

1587. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether unified license, issued to Telecom Service Providers(TSPs) bars the usage of bulk encryption and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if not, the details of encryption standard employed by TSPs in India; and
- (c) the details of the relevant section of unified license wherein the issue of bulk encryption has been dealt with?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN)**

(a) to (c) Yes, the Unified License does not allow bulk encryption of messages by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). The relevant clause of Unified License Agreement is reproduced as under:

“37.1 The Licensee shall not employ bulk encryption equipment in its network. Licensor or officers specially designated for the purpose may evaluate any encryption equipment connected to the Licensee’s network. However, the Licensee shall have the responsibility to ensure protection of privacy of communication and to ensure that unauthorized interception of MESSAGE does not take place.”

In order to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of individual message, Telecom Service Providers use the encryption mechanisms as per 3GPP/ 3GPP2 security standards. The relevant clause of Unified License Agreement is reproduced as under:

“39.7 The LICENSEE shall induct only those network elements into its telecom network, which have been got tested as per relevant contemporary Indian or International Security Standards e.g. IT and IT related elements against ISO/IEC 15408 standards, for Information Security Management System against ISO 27000 series Standards, Telecom and Telecom related elements against 3GPP security standards, 3GPP2 security standards etc. The certification shall be got done only from authorized and certified agencies/ labs in India or as may be specified by the Licensor. The copies of test results and test certificates shall be kept by the LICENSEE for a period of 10 years from the date of procurement of equipment.”
