Circular

Subject: Collection of sensitive information through telephone calls under assumed identity- Communication security on spoofing-reg.

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter no. IW-11011/32/2013-IWT dated 8th July 2013 received from Ministry of Shipping on the subject cited above, for information and strict compliance please.

(U.K. Sahai)
Assistant Secretary (Admn./Estt.)

Encl: As above

Copy to:
1. Executive Director (Finance), IWAI, Noida
2. Chief Engineer (Civil), IWAI, Noida
3. Chief Engineer (Project & Marine), IWAI, Noida
4. Director(s), IWAI, Patna/Kolkata/Guwahati/Kochi
5. Director (Traffic), IWAI, Noida
6. Officer(s)-in-Charge, IWAI, Allahabad, Varanasi, Bhagalpur, Farakka and Dibrugarh
7. PS to Chairperson, IWAI, Noida
8. PA to Member (Finance), IWAI, Noida
9. PA to Member (Traffic), IWAI, Noida
10. PA to Member (Technical), IWAI, Noida
11. PA to Secretary, IWAI, Noida
Government of India
Ministry of Shipping
(IWT Section)

Transport Bhawan
1, Parliament Street
New Delhi- 110 001

No. IW-11011/32/2013-IWT

Dated: 08th July, 2013

To

The Chairman
Inland Waterways Authority of India
A-13, Sector – 1
Noida – 201 301

Sub:- Collection of sensitive information through telephone calls under assumed identity – Communication security on spoofing – regarding

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of letter no. II.21021/20/2013-IS.II/M dated 14-06-2013 received from Ministry of Home Affairs on the above mentioned subject for strict compliance.

Encl: As Above

Yours faithfully

(Narender Kumar)
Section Officer
Telephone No. 011-23719076

Please immediate

18. 07. 13

Ajay Kumar

8th S.P Singh
No. II.21021/20/2013-IS.II/M
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
(IS.I Division/IS.II Desk)

North Block, New Delhi;
Dated the 7th June, 2013.

14 JUN 2013

Sub: Collection of sensitive information through telephone calls under assumed identity – Communication security on spoofing.

The undersigned is directed to inform that it has been reported by Central Intelligence Agency that Pak Intelligence Operatives (PIOs) under assumed identity of middle rung defence officers calling from a spoofed number prefixed with STD code of Delhi are trying to ferret out sensitive information from the Government officials.

2. In view of the increasing deployment of Spoofing as an espionage tool, all officials under your Ministry may be advised to be cautious and may exercise following precautions/instructions:

a. As a cardinal principal of information security, telephone systems, which have any part of their network exposed to external environment, such as PSTN, mobile or any other type, should not be used at any rate for dissemination of classified nature. Instead, dissemination of classified information should be restricted to organization's own secure internal communication networks;

b. All telephones with facility for external communication should have "Identify The Caller Before Giving Any Information" prominently pasted on the instrument in English as well as in Hindi or the vernacular prevalent in use;

c. To the extent possible, all telephone instruments with facility for external communication should have the calling number identifier suspicious display of CLI or such Identifiers should be enough to alert the recipient about the possibility of spoofed calls;

d. As a matter of information security principle matters of confidential nature should never be transacted/discussed over telephone. However, should the circumstances necessitate, persons attending to a telephone call should
identify the caller beyond all reasonable doubt before parting with such information;

e. In case, the identity of the caller is not established beyond all reasonable doubt, he should be politely asked for his contact details, including telephone number (in case the facility of calling number identifier is not available on the telephone), assuring him that the person called for would revert back as soon as possible;

f. The name and telephone number so obtained should immediately be verified by calling back the person on the given number. This is the most effective countermeasure. If possible, it could also be checked from the Telephone Directory;

g. If the call tries to give reasons that he only can contact the recipient of the call due to technical reasons such as use of EPBAX etc., it should raise the strong suspicion that it is a spoofed call;

h. If it comes to notice that an intruder has come on the line or/and some information about the intruder has been secured by the person attending the call, the same should be brought to the notice of senior officer as soon as possible so that remedial measures, if any, could be taken at the earliest.

These instructions may be circulated to all Attached and Subordinate offices under your Ministry.

To

All Ministries in Government of India.

(Rakesh Mittal)
Director (IS-I)
Tele: 23092132