No. VAS-8/Misc New Proposal/2013(pt)  
Dated: Jan 2016

To,

1. All CGMs, telecom circles/districts.
2. All GMs (Nodal Incharge- North, East, South, West) BSNL.

Subject: Regarding running awareness campaign asking citizens not to use spoofed call services.

This is in regard to the letter received at this office from Director (IMS), Security Wing, DoT dated 14.12.2015 copy enclosed regarding Spoofing which is a case of CLI tampering i.e., changing the CLI of calling party before presenting it to called party. The spoofing of CLI mislead the investigating authorities and place challenges in malicious call tracing, counter terrorism and national security. It makes difficult for Law Enforcement Agencies to establish true identity of caller.

To deal with this issue DoT has decided to run awareness campaign asking citizens not to use spoofed call services as it is illegal activity under section 25(e) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 which may lead to fine punishment or imprisonment for 3 years or both. It is therefore requested to launch this campaign through SMS in your Circle.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority


(Sanjay Karna)
DGM (VAS-1)
All Access service Providers

The Spoofing is a process of fraudulently changing the Calling Line Identification of the calling party before presenting to the called party. By virtue of spoofing, a caller having a phone/mobile number 'A' can ask the ‘Spoofing Service Provider’ to present & send any predetermined Calling Line Identification (CLI) say 'B' on the recipient number 'C', even though the call is originated from his Number 'A'. On receipt of call, the recipient 'C' perceives the calling number as 'B' whereas the actual caller is 'A'. Thus, eventually the caller is able to hide his/her identity from called party by presenting some other false/spoofed identity.

The spoofing of Calling Line Identification is a cause of concern as it may mislead the investigating authorities in prevention and detection of anti-national/anti-social activities. The call spoofing poses mammoth challenges in malicious call tracing, counter-terrorism and national security. Since the miscreants are able to keep themselves unidentified; miscreants, terrorists, antisocial elements and anti-national activists may misuse this procedure for making the calls by disguising their actual identity. It makes difficult for Law Enforcement Agencies to establish true identity of the caller.

To deal with issue, it has been decided to run awareness campaign asking citizens not to use spoofed call service as it is an illegal activity under section 25(c) of Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 that may lead to punishment in terms of fine or imprisonment up to 3 years or both. It is, therefore, requested to launch this campaign though SMS in your network.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

(R. Shukla)
Director (IMS),
Security Wing, DoT
011-23372630

CC: Sr. DDG, TERM HQ/ DDG(AS-I), Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi