

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1642
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 05.03.2020

LIST OF WHATSAPP USERS AFFECTED BY PEGASUS

1642. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Minister had stated that the Facebook had sent a list of WhatsApp users in India whose phones, mails and social media accounts had been hacked by Pegasus spyware owned by NSO, an Israeli company; and
- (b) whether Minister would inform all those WhatsApp users so that they can also file cases against either Facebook or NSO??

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE)

(a): Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) on 31.10.2019 sought a report from the WhatsApp regarding breach of privacy of citizens of India on its messaging platform. WhatsApp replied on 2.11.2019 communicating the aspects relating to exploitation of a vulnerability in their platform by a spyware called Pegasus, developed by Israeli company NSO Group.

(b): WhatsApp has informed that it is believed that around 1400 users's devices were attempted to be attacked globally including 121 users in India. It further stated that personal data of approx. 20 users in India might have been breached. No details of the affected Indian users were shared by WhatsApp.
