

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2723
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.12.2019

THEFT OF PERSONAL DATA BY MOBILE APPLICATION

2723. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state?

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints pertaining to theft of private / personal data by the Android/ I-phone mobile applications in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon; and
- (c) other precautionary measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Proliferation of mobile/smart phones and related applications in all areas is growing in the country. Propagation of malicious mobile applications targeting mobile phones are being reported globally. Such malicious applications could be used for stealing data from infected mobile phones for further misuse by cyber criminals.

(a) and (c): Government has taken several measures to check malicious apps and enable users to protect their mobile phones. These, *inter alia*, include

- (i) Alerts and advisories about the threats and vulnerabilities affecting mobile phones along with countermeasures are being issued regularly by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).
- (ii) Security tips have been published to enable users to secure their mobile/smart phones by CERT-In
- (iii) Government has operationalised the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK) to enable detection and cleaning of malicious code including from mobile / smart phones.
- (iv) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Tips for users about information security including securing mobile phones are disseminated through websites like “www.infosecawareness.in”, “www.cert-in.org.in” and “www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in”.
