

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2020

**STOLEN DATA OF INDIAN FACEBOOK USERS**

**2111. PROF MANOJ KUMAR JHA:**

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

- (a) whether Government has been able to identify how the data of nearly 5.62 lakh of Indian Facebook users were stolen and sold around Cambridge Analytica.
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has been able to successfully take any action against the entity involved in the above mentioned incident, if so the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has planned any measures after that so that any similar future abuse would be prevented, if so the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Based on the media reports regarding interference by Cambridge Analytica in Indian elections, Government had approached Cambridge Analytica as well as Facebook separately on 23.03.2018 seeking clarifications. Cambridge Analytica responded on 03.04.2018 that they do not have any Facebook data of Indian citizens. On 05.04.2018, Facebook informed the Government that data of estimated 562,455 Indian's may have been accessed by Cambridge Analytica through installations of the App developed by GSR and installed by Indians. As there were perceived inconsistencies, Government again approached both companies separately and asked Cambridge Analytica for additional details emphasizing that any data concerning Indians is required to be given due sanctity. No further response was however received from CA. Cambridge Analytica has not responded for further information sought by MeitY on behalf of Government. Therefore, Government has handed over the matter to CBI for investigating the matter.

(d): Section 43A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for compensation to be paid to the victim in case of unauthorized access of information and leakage of sensitive personal information respectively. It mandates 'body corporates' to implement 'reasonable security practices' for protecting 'sensitive personal information' of individuals. The Information Technology (Reasonable security practices and procedures and sensitive personal data or information) Rules, 2011 notified under this section defines sensitive personal information and also mandate that body corporate must provide policy for privacy and disclosure of information, so that user is well aware of the type of personal data collected, purpose of collection and usage of such information. The rules also specify mode of collection of information, disclosure of information, transfer of information, etc.

In addition, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has tabled the Personal Data Protection Bill in the Parliament.

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