

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4587
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.04.2018

USE OF MALWARE TO STEAL DATA

4587 DR. VIKAS MAHATME :

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

- (a) whether cyber criminals are now turning to mobile applications and using malware to steal data that could be used for a number of nefarious purposes such as identify theft, fraud or pornography;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures Government has taken to control such malwares in order to protect consumers who are using mobile apps ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

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

(c): Government has taken following measures to check malicious apps and enable users to protect their mobile phones:

- (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. The CSK portal provides users with free tools for cleaning malicious code as well as tools such as M-Kavach for addressing threats related to mobile phones.
- (iv) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Tips for users about information security including securing mobile phones are disseminated through websites like “<http://infosecawareness.in>”, “www.cert-in.org.in” and “www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in”.
