

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 738**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.07.2017

**STEPS TO CONTROL RANSOMWARE ATTACKS**

**738      SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to control the spread of a ransomware called 'wannacrypt', which locked the data in computers across globe including India, demanding a ransom; and
- (b) the precautions and measures taken/ considered to be taken by Government in handling such situations in future?

**ANSWER**  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a): Propagation of ransomware called WannaCry/WannaCrypt has been reported in many countries around the world including India since 12 May 2017. Ransomware is a type of malicious software that infects a computer and restricts users' access to affected files by encrypting them until a ransom is paid to unlock it.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to control spread of WannaCrypt ransomware:

- (i) The Indian Computer Emergency (CERT-In) issued an advisory regarding detection and prevention of Wannacry ransomware on its website on 13 May 2017.
- (ii) CERT-In had issued a vulnerability note on its website with a Severity Rating of high on March 15, 2017 providing information regarding vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows systems which have been exploited by Wannacrypt ransomware alongwith remedial measures.
- (iii) CERT-In informed various key organisations across sectors in the country regarding the ransomware threat and advised measures to be taken to prevent the same. A webcast was also conducted in this regard for organisations and users.
- (iv) Free tools for detection and removal of wannacrypt ransomware were provided on the website of Cyber Swachhta Kendra ([www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in)).

(b): The following steps are taken by the Government to prevent malware/ransomware threats:

- (i) CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect systems and mobile devices.
- (ii) Security tips are published for users to secure their Desktops and mobile/smart phones.
- (iii) Government has launched the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre). The centre is providing detection of malicious programs and free tools to remove the same for banks as well as common users.
- (iv) Cyber security mock drills are being conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors. 15 such drills have so far been conducted by CERT-In where 148 organisations from different states and sectors such as Finance, Defence, Power, Telecom, Transport, Energy, Space, IT/ITeS, etc participated. 4 such drills have been conducted specifically for ransomware scenarios to enable preparedness of organisations for such threats.

- (v) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Specific books, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like “<http://infosecawareness.in/>” and “[www.cyberswachhtakendra.in](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.in)”

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