

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2112
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.03.2020

TARGETS OF SURVEILLANCE

2112. SHRI S MUTHUKARUPPAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many social media giants claimed that journalists, individuals and human rights activists in the country have been targets of surveillance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation on this issue asking for a probe under court watch; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Some statements have appeared based on reports in media, regarding breach of privacy of Indian citizens on WhatsApp. These attempts to malign the Government of India for the reported breach are misleading. The Government is committed to protect the fundamental rights of citizens, including the right to privacy. The Government operates strictly as per provisions of law and laid down protocols. There are adequate safeguards to ensure that no innocent citizen is harassed, or his privacy breached.
