

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2747**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 12.12.2019

**WITHDRAWAL OF WHATSAPP SECURITY VULNERABILITY  
WARNING FROM THE CERT-IN WEBSITE**

**2747. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that WhatsApp Ltd. had informed Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) about the security vulnerability in May, 2019 which allowed the Pegasus software which allowed unauthorised monitoring to be installed on users phones via the phone and video call function;
- (b) if so, what action was taken by the Ministry to intimate the public at large about such security loophole and reasons why the warning on the CERT-In website regarding the same was taken down on 2nd November, 2019; and
- (c) if no action was taken, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): On May 20, 2019 WhatsApp reported an incident to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) wherein it was mentioned that WhatsApp had identified and promptly fixed a vulnerability that could enable an attacker to insert and execute code on mobile devices and that the vulnerability can no longer be exploited to carry out attack.

(b) and (c): CERT-In had by then published a vulnerability note regarding the vulnerability in WhatsApp on May 17, 2019 and advising countermeasures to users. The vulnerability note issued was never taken down from the website of CERT-In.

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