

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2393
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2022

BANNED APPS

2393. SHRIMATI MAHUA MOITRA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has banned 54 apps in order to protect our citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether app leakages and data leakages of Indian citizens may happen from other countries too;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government enact data localization requirements for all sensitive personal data while the Data Protection Act is under consideration; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (b): In line with the objective of the Government to ensure an Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable Internet for all its users and based on the requests received through designated nodal officers from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has blocked 54 mobile applications under the provision of section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information for Public) Rules, 2009. These mobile applications were blocked in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defense of India and security of the State. As per the information made available by MHA, these apps were collecting various user data and transmitting it in an unauthorized manner to servers abroad for profiling.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. It is technically possible that the breach of data privacy of Indian citizens may happen from other countries. Any such cyber security incident for Indian citizens' data is expected to be reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) as per the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team and Manner of Performing Functions and Duties) Rules, 2013.

(e) and (f): At present Section 43A and section 72A of the IT Act, 2000 enable privacy and security of sensitive personal data in digital form. The Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information), Rules, 2011, provides reasonable security practices and procedures by the body corporate. In financial sector, RBI has mandated that all payment system providers shall ensure that the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India. For the foreign leg of the transaction, if any, data can also be stored in the foreign country, if required.
