

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1348
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2022

SURVEILLANCE SOFTWARE SYSTEM

1348. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

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

- (a) whether the Government or any of its agency is currently using any software or software system or any other equipment for lawful interception and monitoring and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the programme or scheme under which such procurement has been made and the total funds sanctioned and allocated for such procurement;
- (c) whether the Ministry has deployed the spyware software and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons of the spyware software being authorised in India when hacking is a criminal offence as per India's law;
- (d) whether these surveillance requests were issued and reviewed by Competent Authorities if such tools have indeed been used and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the orders for interception and monitoring have been issued and if so, the time period for which such orders were in force; and
- (f) the details of intermediaries to whom these orders have been sent?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): Lawful interception and monitoring is done by the authorized law enforcement agencies after due authorization by the Central or State Governments, under the provisions contained in sub-section (2) of section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 read with Rule 419A of Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951 and section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 read with the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for interception, Monitoring and Decryption of Information) Rules, 2009.
