

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1356
TO BE ANSWERED ON:22.09.2020

STRENGTHENING CYBER SECURITY

1356. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to strengthen the cyber security in the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the increasing incidents of the breach of cyber security of few citizens; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any action against the people/ organizations involved in aforementioned incidents and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): As per information reported to and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), activities of fraudulent emails, SMS messages and phishing websites pretending to be from legitimate services, are reported luring users to divulge credentials to conduct financial frauds.

Government has taken following measures to strengthen the cyber security in the country:

- i. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers, networks and data on regular basis.
- ii. CERT-In is working in coordination with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Banks to track and disable phishing websites.
- iii. Security tips have been published for users to secure their desktops, mobile/smart phones and preventing phishing attacks.
- iv. Government has issued guidelines for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) regarding their key roles and responsibilities for securing applications / infrastructure and compliance.
- v. Government has directed all stakeholders for regular audit of Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and services.
- vi. Government has empanelled security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.

- vii. Government has formulated Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments/UTs and their organizations and critical sectors.
 - viii. Cyber security mock drills are conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organisations in Government and critical sectors.
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- ix. CERT-In conducts regular training programmes for network / system administrators and Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) of Government and critical sector organisations regarding securing the IT infrastructure and mitigating cyber attacks.
 - x. 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.
 - xi. Government has initiated setting up of National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to generate necessary situational awareness of existing and potential cyber security threats and enable timely information sharing for proactive, preventive and protective actions by individual entities. Phase-I of NCCC has been made operational.
 - xii. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is conducting 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 “www.infosecawareness.in”, and “www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in”.
 - xiii. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued National Information Security Policy and Guidelines (NISPG) in order to prevent information security breaches/cyber intrusions in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure. The NISPG has been shared with the Central Ministries as well as the State Governments/ Union Territories. They have been advised to take appropriate steps to strengthen information security controls as per NISPG for strengthening Information Security and preventing information security breaches.
 - xiv. To deal with cybercrimes in a coordinated & comprehensive manner, Government has launched the online National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, ‘www.cybercrime.gov.in’ to enable citizens to report complaints pertaining to all types of cyber crimes with special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. A toll-free helpline no. 155260 has been made operational in all States/UTs to assist citizens.

(c): ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are State subjects as per the Constitution of India and States/UTs are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their law enforcement machinery. The Law Enforcement Agencies take legal action as per provisions of law against the cyber crime offenders.

Government of India helps States in combating cyber crimes by assisting them through advisories and funds under various schemes.
