

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.388
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 22.07.2021

SECURITY BREACH IN NIC E-MAIL

388. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether there was a cyber security breach into the e-mail system of Government maintained by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the mechanism that is in place to protect the data pertaining to e-mail accounts of NIC; and
- (d) the steps taken to enhance the security aspects of the NIC e-mail accounts?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): No, Sir.

(c): The email system is equipped with a defense-in-depth security architecture with a layered security approach. All incoming mails are scanned for the presence of any malware, spam, phishing, spoofing, sender reputation etc. In addition to the above, network level firewall, application level firewall, Intrusion Prevention System etc. are deployed.

(d): In order to enhance the security of email accounts, National Informatics Centre (NIC) has implemented geo-fencing, this allows access to the users email account only from the country where the user is physically present.

Multi-factor user authentication has been made mandatory for email access and is being rolled out for the email users to strengthen the email account security. NIC is also conducting security trainings and awareness sessions for email users to sensitize them on the email security and maintaining cyber security hygiene.
