

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1083**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 26.07.2023

**CYBER ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT WEBSITE**

**1083. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced a new national cyber security policy in the light of recent cyber attacks on Government websites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed timelines for its implementation and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard to mitigate citizens vulnerability to cyber attacks;
- (a) whether the Government intends to co-ordinate with other countries to develop a global legal framework on cyber terrorism; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a):The Government is committed to ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable for all users. The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) has formulated a draft National Cyber Security Strategy 2021, which holistically looks at addressing the issues of security of national cyberspace.

(b):Cybersecurity is a continuous area of focus for various Governmentministriesand departments, with the active involvement of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and National Informatics Centre (NIC).The CERT-In is notified by the CentralGovernment under section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to serve as thenational agency for incident response. NIC provides secure IT and E-Governance services to Government departments.

(c):With the expansion of the Internet and more and more Indians coming online, the possibility that Digital Nagrik or citizens being exposed to user harms and criminality has also increased. Government is fully cognizant and aware of various cyber security threats and has taken following measures to mitigate citizens vulnerability to cyber-attacks:

- i. On observing a incident, CERT-In notifies the affected organisations along with remedial actions to be taken, and coordinates incident response measures with affected organisations, service providers, respective sector regulators and law enforcement agencies.
- ii. CERT-In operates the National Cyber Coordination Centre to generate situational awareness regarding existing and potential cyber security threats.
- iii. CERT-In operates an automated cyber-threat exchange platform for proactively collecting, analysing and sharing tailored alerts with organisations across sectors for proactive threat mitigation actions by them.

- iv. Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) is operated by CERT-In to detect malicious programs and free tools to remove the same, and to provide cyber security tips and best practices for citizens and organisations.
- v. CERT-In has empanelled 150 security auditing organisations to support and audit implementation of Information Security Best Practices.
- vi. A Cyber Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber-attacks and cyber-terrorism, formulated by CERT-In, for implementation by all Ministries and Departments of the Central Government, State Governments and their organisations and critical sectors.
- vii. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs is designated as the nodal point in the fight against cybercrime. A tollfree number 1930 is made operational for citizens to get assistance in lodging online complaints in their own language. To spread awareness on cybercrime, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several steps that include dissemination of messages on cybercrime through the Twitter handle @cyberDost and radio campaigns.
- viii. RBI has issued various instructions in respect of security and risk mitigation measures related to electronic/digital transactions. This cover securing card transactions, securing payments through Internet banking / electronic payments, ATM transactions, prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), limiting customer liability on unauthorized electronic banking transactions, including PPIs issued by authorised non-banks, safeguarding against email spoofing attacks, etc.
- ix. CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers and networks, on an ongoing basis.
- x. Cyber security mock drills are conducted to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organisations in the government and critical sectors.
- xi. Regular training programmes for network and system administrators and the Chief Information Security Officers of government and critical sector organisations are conducted by CERT-In, for securing the information technology infrastructure and mitigating cyber-attacks.
- xii. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology conducts programmes 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 such as [www.infosecawareness.in](http://www.infosecawareness.in) and [www.csk.gov.in](http://www.csk.gov.in).

(d) and (e): Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/282, adopted in May 2021, an Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes was established with all member states of the United Nations as part of the Ad Hoc Committee. India has proposed criminalisation of "cyber terrorism" under the Convention.

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