

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 979
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.02.2023

CYBER SECURITY IN RURAL AREAS

979. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the public awareness campaign is being run for cyber security in rural areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the efforts made by the Government with regard to check cyber crime and cyber security during the last three years;
- (c) whether any special campaign with regard to cyber security is being run in tribal area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The Government is committed to ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable for all users. 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 threat and it necessary to create awareness among digital nagrik on issues of cyber security.

A number of activities for increasing public awareness regarding cyber security are carried out, across the country including in rural areas, under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. These include the following:

- (i) 1,479 awareness workshops on information security have been organised in both direct and virtual mode for school and college students, teachers, faculty, government personnel, law enforcement agencies, general users, parents, women, Common Service Centres, etc., covering 2,89,072 participants across 33 States and Union territories. 1,24,909 school teachers have been trained as master trainers in 43 training programme.
- (ii) 5.75 crore beneficiaries are estimated to have been covered so far through multiple modes including 15 Cyber Safety and Cyber Security Awareness Weeks, 116 mass awareness programme broadcast through Doordarshan/All India Radio; 26 editions of bimonthly newsletter and multilingual awareness materials in the form of handbooks (16), multimedia short videos (75), multi-lingual posters (121), cartoon stories for children (65), etc. which have been disseminated through the print, electronics and social media, besides being made available through the ISEA awareness website (www.infosecawareness.in).
- (iii) A self-paced three module e-learning course on cyber hygiene practices has been made available through the ISEA awareness website, under which 72,797 participants have been registered and 27,189 participants certified; also Online quiz competitions on cyber hygiene and cyber security aspects have been organised for various users, in which 5.17 lakh persons have participated, of which 2.75 lakh have cleared the same.
- (iv) The CSC Academy, a society set up by CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, has partnered with a number of corporate partners to implement cyber security and safety projects in the rural areas covering more than five lakh direct and indirect beneficiaries, including women.

- (v) In addition, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers and networks on an ongoing basis, which benefits all citizens, including those in rural areas.

Further, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs has been designated as the nodal point in the fight against cybercrime. A toll-free number 1930 has been 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.
