

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 545
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 17.09.2020

BLACKROCK MALWARE

545. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the warning about circulation of BlockRock malware vulnerability to the android mobiles in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to ward off the malware in the country; the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): A malware named "BlackRock", equipped with data stealing capabilities, has been reported targeting the mobile devices running on the Android operating system. It can steal credentials from more than 300 Apps like email clients, e-commerce apps, messaging/social media apps, entertainment apps, banking, financial apps etc.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has published an alert on this virus in July 2020 on website of CERT-In and Cyber Swachhta Kendra and alerted the users regarding precautionary measures to be taken to ward-off the virus.

(c): Government has taken following measures to check malicious apps and enable users to protect their mobile phones:

- i. Alerts and advisories about the threats, vulnerabilities and malware affecting mobile phones along with countermeasures are being issued regularly by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).
- ii. Security tips have been published to enable users to secure their mobile/smart phones.
- iii. Government has operationalised the Cyber Swachhta Kendra to enable detection and cleaning of malicious code. This Centre operates in close coordination and collaboration with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Industry.

- iv. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Tips for users about information security including securing mobile phones are disseminated through websites like “<https://infosecawareness.in>”, “<https://www.cert-in.org.in>” and “<https://www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in>”.
