

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.08.2010
ANSWERED ON

WARNING BY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ON HACKING OF GOVERNMENT WEBSITES

3196

Shri Rajkumar Dhoot

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

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- (a) whether it is a fact that Intelligence Agencies have warned against the possible hacking of important Government websites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government towards cyber security ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Intelligence agencies regularly issue warning against possible hacking of Government websites.

Intelligence agencies recently issued a warning against large scale cyber attacks by Pakistani hacker groups from 31 March, 2010 to 6 April, 2010 targeting websites of Indian organizations in the Government, Indian Embassies, famous brands and corporations. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) immediately issued an advisory and circulated to all the Chief Information Security Officers (CISO) in the Government, Defence, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), Internet Service Providers (ISP) and prominent Private sector Organizations. A total of 330 websites were defaced during this period. However, only 4 websites belong to Government organisations.

(c): The Government has taken several measures to detect and prevent cyber attacks.

1. The Information Technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 has been enforced on 27.10.2009. The Act provides legal framework to address the issues connected with hacking and security breaches of information technology infrastructure.

2. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) scans the Indian Cyber Space to detect traces of any untoward cyber incident.

CERT-In regularly publishes Security Guidelines and advisories for safeguarding computer systems from hacking and these are widely circulated. CERT-In also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.

3. CERT-In has also published a Security Guideline for general users on "Securing Home Computers".

4. The Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism which is under implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

5. Ministries and Departments have been advised to carry out their IT systems audit regularly to ensure robustness of their systems.