

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1850
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.12.2018

HACKING OF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

1850. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked a social media portal to provide an update on the impact of the recent hacking incident on Indian users where about 50 million accounts on the social media portal were affected;
- (a) if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that hackers had exploited a vulnerability in the systems of the social media portal, impacting upto 50 million accounts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) and (b): Yes ,Sir. As per information made available, the impact on some of the affected user accounts was *access of user information* such as name, phone number, email, username, gender, locale/language, relationship status, religion, hometown, self-reported current city, birth date, device types used to access the affected social media portal, education, work, the last 10 places users checked into or were tagged in, website, people or pages users follow, and the 15 most recent searches.

(c) and (d): As per information made available, external actors exploited vulnerability in the form of software bugs impacting a feature provided for users on a Social Media Platform. This allowed unauthorized access to users' account and information.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issued advisories to users regarding best practices to be followed for protection of account information while using Social Media.
