

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1219
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.12.2022

RESPONSE OF WHATSAPP ON NOTICE OF CERT-IN

**1219. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:
SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 516 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21 July, 2019 and state:

- (a) the details of information and details received from WhatsApp regarding privacy breach of 121 Indians in response to the formal notice in 2019 of Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In); and
- (b) the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) had issued a notice to WhatsApp seeking submission of details and information such as data security and management policies as well as processes, vulnerability and notifications. This was done by CERT-In upon reporting of a security incident by WhatsApp in May 2019 and update in September 2019.

WhatsApp in response to notice of CERT-In, provided information regarding its security practices, including its data security and management, vulnerability and remedial process/actions, notification process to affected users, policies, etc.

The vulnerabilities, in this case, pertain to digital platform which are privately owned. From time to time, CERT-In notifies vulnerabilities in such platforms. Zero-day exploits and vulnerabilities of this type are characteristics of various digital platforms.
