

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1057
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2023

RESPONSE OF WHATSAPP ON NOTICES BY CERT-IN

1057. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) whether Government had sought names of 121 whatsapp users from whatsapp whose phones were infected with spyware;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and names of such users received from whatsapp in response to notices by CERT-In in 2019; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Government is committed to ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe and Trusted and Accountable for all its users. With the expansion of the Internet and more and more Indians coming online, the possibility of cyber-attacks has also increased. Government is fully cognizant and aware of various cyber security incidents and takes measures to enhance the cyber security posture and curb cyber security incidents.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is notified by the Central Government under section 70B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to serve as the national agency for incident response. CERT-In has informed that it has not sought the names of 121 WhatsApp users from WhatsApp, as no incident of malware infection in this regard was reported to it by any WhatsApp user. CERT-In has further informed that it had issued a notice to WhatsApp seeking information about data security and management polices as well as processes, vulnerability and notification upon reporting of a security incident by WhatsApp in May 2019 and in response, WhatsApp had provided information regarding its security practices, including its data security and management, vulnerability and remedial process/actions, notification process to affected users, policies etc.
