

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5439
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.03.2018

DEEP/DARK WEB

5439. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the existence of 'deep web' and 'dark web' beyond the 'surface web' on the internet and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware about the potential black markets operating on dark web such as illegal drugs, weapons etc.; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to regulate the deep and dark web and commonly used browsers from accessing them?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI K. J. ALPHONS)

(a) and (b) : The term "deep web" is used to denote a class of content on the Internet that is not visible through general browsing and not indexed by search engines. "Dark web" is part of "Deep web" that has been intentionally hidden and is inaccessible through standard web browsers. Dark web sites serve as a platform for users for anonymity. The hidden eco system of the Dark web has potential of being used for malicious activities due to its inherent anonymous nature. Traditional search engines are prevented from indexing the deep web pages by using techniques such as dynamic content, pages without back links (unlinked pages), sites requiring login, pages with limited access content etc. Dark web technologies such as The Onion Routing (TOR) provide restricted access as well as prevent monitoring through use of encryption. There had been media reports about role of 'deep web' and 'dark web' as potential black markets for sale of illegal drugs, weapons etc.

(c): The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides a legal framework for addressing all types of prevailing cyber crimes as reported in the country Also, the issue of development of effective technical solution has been engaging the attention of academia and research community worldwide. Government is in touch with academia and research institutions to evolve and engage in suitable research activities in this area.
