

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3602**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.08.2018

**SCREENING OF WHATSAPP MESSAGES**

**3602. SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to tap citizen's whatsapp messages;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether tapping of personal and private data is allowed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); and
- (d) if so, the details of the plan of the Government in this regard and if not, the basis of such surveillance, if undertaken?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): No, Sir.

(c): Article 29(2) of United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 states that "In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society."

(d): Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 empowers Government to issue direction for interception or monitoring or decryption of information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource in the interest of : (i) sovereignty and integrity of India, (ii) defence of India, (iii) security of the State, (iv) friendly relations with foreign States, or (v) public order, or (vi) for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above, or (vii) for investigation of any offence.

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