GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *176
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 03.07.2019

DATA COLLECTION BY MOBILE APPLICATION

*176:   SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH:

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

(a)   whether the Government has taken note of large amount of personal data collection by mobile application developers in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b)   whether the Government has put in place/proposes to bring in any mechanism for ensuring safety and prevention of misuse of the data collected by such mobile application developers and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has received any complaints pertaining to data misuse by mobile application developers/ companies in the country during each of the last five years and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION *176 FOR 03.07.2019 REGARDING DATA COLLECTION BY MOBILE APPLICATION

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(a): Proliferation of mobile/smart phones and related applications in all areas is growing in the country. Propagation of malicious Apps targeting mobile phones are being reported globally. Such malicious Apps could be used for stealing data from infected mobile phones for further misuse by cyber criminals.

(b): Government has taken following measures to check malicious apps and enable users to protect their mobile phones:

1. Alerts and advisories about the threats and vulnerabilities affecting mobile phones along with countermeasures are issued regularly by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

2. Security tips have been published to enable users to secure their mobile/smart phones

3. Government has operationalised the Cyber Swachhta Kendra to enable detection and cleaning of malicious code including from mobile / smart phones. The Cyber Swachhta Kendra portal provides users with free tools for cleaning malicious code as well as tools such as M-Kavach for addressing threats related to mobile phones.

4. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Tips for users about information security including securing mobile phones are disseminated through websites like "https://infosecawareness.in","www.cert-in.org.in"and "www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in".

(c): Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) has not received any specific complaint pertaining to data misuse by mobile application developers/ companies.

(d): Government had constituted a committee of expert on data protection, chaired by Justice (Retd) B.N. Srikrishna, Supreme Court of India to study various issues relating to data protection and come out with Data Protection Bill. The said committee has brought out a draft Personal Data Protection Bill (PDPB). Wide ranging consultations have been conducted on the recommendations of the committee with a view to finalizing the draft legislation.

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