THEFT OF DATA THROUGH SATELLITE TRACKING

4721. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a)   whether the Government is aware of the theft of data of the people through satellite tracking and if so, the details thereof;

(b)   whether the Government is aware that data is sold by the National Maritime Electronic Association and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether the Government has taken any steps to check the theft of personal data of the mobile users in the country; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is mandated to track and monitor cybersecurity incidents in India. CERT-In has informed that no incident regarding theft of data through satellite-tracking has been reported to it.

(c) and (d): With proliferation of mobile phones and related applications in all areas, propagation of malicious apps targeting mobile phones is also on the rise. Such malicious apps may also be used for stealing data from infected mobile phones.

The following steps have been taken tocheck the theft of personal data of the mobile users in the country:

(i)   CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers, mobile phones, networks and data on an ongoing basis.

(ii)   Security tips have been published to enable users to secure their mobile/smart phones.

(iii)   CERT-In operates the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) to detect malicious programs including from mobile phones and provides free tools to remove the same alongwith cyber security tips and best practices for citizens and organisations to secure their systems/devices.

(iv)   CERT-In is working in coordination with service providers, regulators and law enforcement agencies to track and disable phishing websites and facilitate investigation of fraudulent activities.

(v)   CERT-In regularly disseminates information and shares security tips on cyber

safety and security through its official social media handles and websites. CERT-In organised various events and activities for citizens during Safe Internet Day on 7 February 2023 and Cyber Security Awareness Month in October 2022, by posting security tips using posters and videos on social media platforms and websites. CERT-In, in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, conducted an online awareness campaign for citizens, covering topics such as general online safety, social media risks and safety, mobile related frauds and safety, secure digital payment practices, etc., through videos and quizzes on the MyGov platform.

(vi) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology conducts programmes to generate information security awareness. Books, videos and online materials about information security are developed for general users, children and parents, and are disseminated through portals such as www.infosecawareness.in and www.csk.gov.in.

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