

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3542
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Cyber Security Empowerment of HEIs

3542. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan towards cyber security empowerment of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for sensitization and create awareness on cyber security and cyber curriculum among HEIs and to arrange cyber hygiene?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Education (MoE) has formulated an annual action plan (beginning April 2022) to observe 1st Wednesday of every month as Cyber Jaagrookta Diwas (CJD) to empower HEIs in understanding and managing cyber security related aspects including “Concept and use of Cyber Hygiene in Daily Life” – to help students and faculty to follow safe cyber security protocols and apply basic safeguards in use of digital tools.

As part of CJD, experts drawn from industry and leading institutions including IITs conduct online sessions on cyber security awareness for senior officials, faculty members and students of different HEIs. Helpline numbers, websites, social media handles, and other cyber security related initiatives from various ministries are widely publicized while observing CJD. Individual HEIs have also been instructed through University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to observe CJD and plan similar activities at their campuses for all students and faculty.

Further, UGC and AICTE periodically share communications, organize webinars and encourage HEIs to create awareness regarding cyber security through innovative methods such as organizing hackathons. Courses on cyber security have also been made available on national Massive Open Online Course (MOOCs) platform “SWAYAM” (Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) by UGC.
