

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1991
TO BE ANSWERED ON: **05.08.2021**

INCREASE IN PHISHING ATTACKS IN INDIA

1991. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that phishing attacks via WhatsApp and Telegram have soared in India according to data shared by Kaspersky Internet Security for Android;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has planned vigilance for the same or developed any anti-phishing technologies recently to curb the situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Kaspersky Internet Security for Android users has published report in July 2021 wherein it has been mentioned that there has been increase in phishing attacks via WhatsApp, Telegram etc.

Activities of fraudulent emails, SMS messages, phishing websites and campaigns through WhatsApp, pretending to be from legitimate services, lure users to divulge credentials to conduct financial frauds. As per the information reported to and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total of 454, 472, 280 and 138 phishing incidents were observed during the year 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (upto June) respectively.

(c) and (d): Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) works in coordination with service providers, regulators and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to track and disable phishing websites and facilitate investigation of fraudulent activities.

CERT-In issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats/vulnerabilities and countermeasures to protect computers, mobile phones, networks and data on regular basis. CERT-In has issued 60 advisories for data security and mitigating fraudulent activities for organisations and citizens. Security tips have been published for users to secure their desktops, mobile/smart phones and preventing phishing attacks.

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is implementing Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project, which includes a component of creating mass

awareness on Information Security. Under this project, awareness handbooks were distributed to disseminate information and tips on safe use of internet, which inter-alia includes a chapter on phishing attacks covering general overview, techniques, tips for recognizing phishing messages and do's & don'ts. Awareness material is also made available online for download on the website www.isea.gov.in and www.infosecawareness.in.
