

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5441

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001

E- EXPORSURE

BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a Sircam worm has had the run of his Ministry computers as reported in the Hindustan Times dated July 26, 2001;
- (b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and (
- (c) the counter measures taken/proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) In July, 2001, a few of this Ministry's computers were infected with Sircam virus . Immediate steps were taken to remove the virus from the computers with the help of latest versions of anti-virus software packages. No damage as a result of this Sircam attack on a few computers of this Ministry has so far come to light.

(c) The increase in virus attacks has been noted and this Ministry has reinforced mechanisms to check entry of computer worms / viruses on the main servers. Latest version of virus scanner has been installed in MEA mail server under the domain of NIC. All the incoming mails are checked for viruses before they are released to the user. In addition, computers in the Ministry being used for e-mail / internet purposes have also been installed with latest version of Antivirus software to check virus attacks.