

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3639

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PENALTY FOR SPYWARE

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to ensure that the equipment and other software being deployed on their network is free from spyware;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been provision of penalty in violation of said proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a) and (b): The Government is following an integrated approach with a series of technical, policy and legal steps to ensure that the equipment and other software deployed on the network is free from spyware. The key measures in regard to preventing virus and spyware attacks are:

(i) The facility duly Internationally accredited for security testing of Information Technology products has been set up and functioning at Standards Testing and Quality Control (STQC) Lab, Kolkata.

(ii) The organizations operating critical information infrastructure have been mandated to implement information security management practices based on International Standard ISO 27001.

(iii) As part of the Crisis Management Plan (CMP) mandate, advisories and directions have been issued to Ministries and Departments to carry out their Information Technology(IT) systems audit regularly to ensure robustness of their systems against spyware attacks. Auditors for carrying out such audits are also empanelled.

(iv) To prevent occurrence of spyware attacks, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT- In) issues regularly security alerts, advisories, vulnerability notes and white papers bringing out threat assessments & vulnerabilities in the IT systems and measures to protect them. To enhance awareness.

(v) CERT-In regularly conducts security workshops and training programs to system, network and security administrators of the critical sector organizations.

(c) and (d): The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal framework to address the issues connected with security breaches of information infrastructure and provides penalty and punishment for spyware / virus attacks on the networks.