

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:361
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010
INFORMATION SECURITY AWARENESS
Suvendu Shri Adhikari

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

- (a) the present status of Information Security System including information security professionals, in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the low level of information security awareness amongst users of Information Technology;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to undertake an Information Security Education and Awareness Project so as to augment information security in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 361 FOR 06.12.2010 REGARDING INFORMATION SECURITY AWARENESS.

(a): The Information Security System including information security professionals in the country covering People, Process and Technology comprises of:

- (i) Legal framework in the form of Information Technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008, in support of responsible action by stakeholders and effective prosecution.
- (ii) Security best practices by way of compliance to international standards including implementation of Crisis Management Plan and Cyber Security Drills.
- (iii) Early Warning and Response to Cyber Security incidents through the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) for effective cyber incident prevention and resolution.
- (iv) Research and Development in core technology areas leading to development of security products and solutions.
- (v) Training and capacity building to enhance cyber security skills and competence through domain specific training programmes, seminars and workshops.
- (vi) Information Security awareness campaign for mass outreach through targeted awareness programmes, web portals, promotional material and awareness kits aimed at students, children, general users of Information Technology.
- (vii) Information Sharing and Collaboration at national and international level in the form of security cooperation agreements with Industry, Academia and international agencies for rapid incident response and vulnerability remediation.

The Information Security System as described above is in place and is being continuously upgraded.

(b) and (c): Government is continuously engaged in enhancing the present level of awareness amongst the users of Information Technology through the Information Security System mentioned in para (a) above. However, there are challenges in view of rapid changes in the field of IT and emergence of newer vulnerabilities and threats to Information Technology systems. Government has taken the following steps to enhance information security awareness amongst users.

Country wide information security awareness campaign in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI)/NASSCOM.

Skill specific training programmes and workshops aimed at all types of users.

Dissemination of security related information for end users including home users and children through web portals such as "secureyourPC.in", "infosecawareness.in".

Publication of Security guidelines, manuals, leaflets etc.

Distribution of awareness kits containing promotional material and handbooks.

(d) to (f): Government is implementing Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project from March 2005 with a budget outlay of Rs. 70 crore.

The ISEA Project is aimed towards development of human resource in the area of Information Security at various levels (Certificate Level to B.Tech, M.Tech & Ph.D Level). This activity is presently being implemented through 6 Resource Centres (RC) as mentoring institutions and 33 Participating Institutes (PI). The project also has a component on awareness; and imparting of training to the Central and State Government Officers on issues related to Cyber / Information Security.

The project as approved, is scheduled to be completed in March, 2012.