

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2132
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2009
CASES OF PHISING IDENTITY/THEFT OVER INTERNET
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

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

- (a) whether there has been a rise in the number of cases of phising / identity theft over the Internet over a period of time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a): Yes, Sir. As per the reports available over internet a rise in the Phishing/Identity theft cases has been observed during past two Years.
- (b): As per the information tracked by, and reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Department of Information Technology, a total of 392 cases in the year 2007,604 in the year 2008 and 312 cases during January-June, 2009 pertaining to Phishing have been handled by CERT-In.
- (c): The Government has taken several steps for preventing Phishing/Identity theft over the Internet, these are:
 - i) CERT-In has published several white papers on countering Phishing/Identity theft Attacks and these have been widely circulated. All the Banks, Financial Institutions, Government Departments/Ministries, their subordinate offices and public sector undertakings have been advised to implement the countermeasures for preventing phishing attacks.
 - ii) CERT-In issues advisories to prevent occurrence of phishing/identity theft incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.
 - iii) CERT-In provides immediate incident response to the phishing/identity theft cases being reported by various organizations.
 - iv) CERT-In is a Global Research Partner of Anti Phishing Working Group (APWG) and develops security best practices, Phishing detection tools and creates user awareness to counter Phishing Attacks.
 - v) The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 provides legal framework to address the issues connected with phishing/identity theft.