

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:566

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

EXPERT PANEL ON CYBER THREATS

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

- (a) whether the Panel of Experts set up by the Government to review India's preparedness to fight/ward off various security threats including cyber threat submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the report alongwith the recommendations made by the Panel on the services of some communication firms such as Gmail,Black Berry Services, Nokia's e-mail, etc;
- (c) the reaction of the various stakeholders thereon; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT)

(a): Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and other agencies regularly review India's preparedness to fight/ward off various cyber security threats including security respectively on a regular basis.

Further, the Government has also set up a Committee to look into the aspects of interception of encrypted communications comprehensively for all types of services so as to address the needs of security agencies.

(b): World over several service providers are providing services like Gmail, Blackberry email, Nokia messaging , Hush mail, Skype, Video chats and other services across the globe for sharing audio, video, image, email, data and accessing other web services any time and everywhere by everyone in the world in a secure manner. The security of these services is achieved through encryption technology. These services are mostly availed by the citizens world over either in their individual capacity or as part of commercial activities. There are multifarious aspects involved in dealing with the issues relating to such communication services such as technical and international relationship, legal and regulatory policy, commercial and security requirements etc.

The Committee has analysed ail the above issues to workout a focused and practical proposal which balance the requirements of security agencies and secure communication needs of trade, commerce and industry. The above complexities involved in the issue resulted in the committee being unable to come out with unanimous conclusive recommendations.

(c): Telecom service providers are of the view that they are able to provide the interception facility for encrypted services but decryption of the intercepted communications / services is not their responsibility. Security agencies, however, desire the intercepted communication in readable format.

(d): The Government regularly interacts with all stakeholders to solve the issues arising from time to time and implement solutions to the extent feasible.