GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1600
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011
CYBER ATTACKS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports indicating the usage of internet/e-mails by terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of cases reported during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the report of online propaganda to malign the image of our country and cyber attack attempts on Government websites by hostile countries have been noticed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether Government proposes to amend the Cyber related laws to make them effective; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir. Government is aware of misuse of Internet/ emails by anti-social elements and criminals. National Investigation Agency during investigation of certain terror cases has found that terrorists had been using Internet and communicating through Email to execute the terror action.

(b): Cases involving misuse of Internet / Emails is not maintained separately by Government. However, as per the general cyber crime data maintained by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 217, 288, 420 and 966 Cyber Crime cases were registered under Information Technology Act during 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 respectively, thereby showing an increasing trend. A total of 339, 176, 276 and 356 cyber crime cases were reported under Cyber Crime related Sections of Indian Penal Code (1PC) during 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 respectively.

(c)and(d): Internet has emerged as an online medium / platform to enable users to share ideas, activities & events and express views/opinions on specific topics / events. Several groups and individuals have hosted content on Internet for a variety of purposes, which may be liked by one section of society and used gainfully. Such sites can be accessed by all sections of users. Millions of users worldwide from all sections of society use Internet. The technology and the associated applications allow the users to post the content of their choice automatically after registration with such sites, without the role of service providers hosting such sites. Most of the large number of users logging on the sites and millions of pages on such sites make it practically very difficult to keep a vigil on all contents posted/hosted on these sites. Most of the sites are hosted outside the country. Further, Government does not regulate content of such sites hosted on Internet.

A total no. of 90. 119, 252 and 219 Government websites as reported and tracked by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) were defaced by various S- hacker groups in the year 2008, 2009, 2010 and January - October 2011 respectively.

Government has notified Intermediary Guidelines Rules, 2011 under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000. These rules provide for the intermediaries to follow self-regulation. Any affected person may report the misuse of networking sites to the intermediary hosting these networking sites and request for removal / disabling of wrongful facts or objectionable content. The intermediaries are also required to designate a grievance officer to redress such requests by the affected person.

(e)and(f): The Information Technology Act. 2000 has already been amended by Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 w.e.f. 27.10.2009. The amended Act is a comprehensive Act and provides legal framework to fight all prevalent cyber crimes. Stringent punishment ranging from imprisonment of three years to life imprisonment and fine has been provided for various acts of cyber crime.