

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:360  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011  
VIRUS ATTACKS ON COMOPUTER  
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

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

- (a) whether computer virus attacks are on the rise in India;
- (b) if so, whether there is any security mechanism put in place to check the potentially unwanted software from infecting the computers;
- (c) whether the Government has any special programmes to Create awareness among computer users; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Virus is a `malicious code` computer software program. With the innovation of technology `malicious code` are getting highly sophisticated and complex. Due to proliferation of Information Technology (IT) in all areas worldwide, there is rise in the vims attacks and malicious activities. With the rise in the no. of computers and increase in the broadband connections the same trends are observed in India as well.

(b): The Government has circulated Computer Security Guidelines and Cyber Security Policy to all the Ministries/ Departments on taking steps to prevent, detect and mitigate cyber attacks. National Informatics Centre (NIC) managing Govt. websites and providing e-mail services is implementing these guidelines and policy to secure the Govt. IT infrastructure from the cyber attacks.

(c) and (d): The specific steps taken by the Government in creating awareness among computer users are:

i ) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has launched Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project to introduce courses on Information Security at the under graduate and post graduate levels and impart training to system administrators and Govt. officials on Information Security. One of the objectives of the Project is to widely generate information security awareness to children, home users and non-IT professionals in a planned manner. A total of 300 workshops have been organized at various levels to increase awareness on Information Security. Specific book, videos and online materials is developed for children, parents and general users about information security.

ii) Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is spreading awareness among users on the spread of computer virus and safeguarding from such attacks through issuance of advisories and guidelines. A web portal `Secure your PC` has also been provided to general users by CERT-In for dissemination of information on securing their computer systems from cyber attacks. CERT-In on its website ([www.cert-in.org.in](http://www.cert-in.org.in)) has provided links to anti-virus scanners to dis-infect the computer systems from virus and malicious code.