GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2217
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HACKING OF WEBSITES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Government websites including that of National Informatics Centre (NIC) have been hacked recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the hackers have been identified in afl the cases; and

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

Answer

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

(a) and (b): As per the incidents reported to and tracked by India Computer Response Team (CERT-In), a total number of 101 Government Websites have been defaced during the period September - November, 2011 out of which none belong to National Informatics Centres (NIC).

(c) and (d): It has been observed that Website defacements are being carried out by various hacker groups. The attackers are compromising computer systems located in different parts of the world and use masquerading techniques to hide the identity of actual system from which the attacks are being launched. Hence it is difficult to attribute web attack to a particular person.

In such cases CERT-In notifies the concerned organisations regarding the defacement and suggests appropriate steps to recover from the incident. Analysis of attack methodology is done based on available logs provided by the organisation. Findings of analysis including vulnerabilities exploited, Internet Protocol address of attack origin and measures to be taken to remediate the vulnerabilities are advised to affected organisations.

Further, the Government has taken the following steps for preventing hacking of websites:

i. It has been mandated that all government websites to be hosted on infrastructure of NIC, ERNET or any other secure infrastructure service provider in the country.

ii. National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been directed not to host web sites which are not audited with respect to cyber security.

iii. National Informatics Centre (NIC) which hosts the government websites is continuously engaged in upgrading and improving the security posture of its hosting infrastructure.

iv. All the new government websites and applications are to be audited with respect to cyber security prior to their hosting. The auditing of the websites and applications will be conducted on a regular basis after hosting also.