GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2869
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MEASURES AGAINST HACKING
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government websites hacked during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the computer security analysts have issued an alert for Internet users and operators against hackers attempting to target websites of `reputed` Government and private organisations in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deploy adequate firewalls and security measures to combat these attacks originating through Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) ?

Answer

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

(a): As per the information tracked and made available to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) a total no. of 201, 303, 308 and 273 government websites were hacked during the year 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 (till July) respectively.

(b) and (c): Based on the threat assessment, CERT-In regularly issues alerts for internet users and operators on vulnerabilities. 5 nos. of alerts were issued during May − June, 2012 to the prominent organizations in the Government and Private sector about targeting of the websites for carrying out cyber attacks by the hacker groups. CERT-In also published advisory providing countermeasures to safeguard the websites and network infrastructure against such attacks. All the organizations were also advised to report such incidents to CERT-In alongwith network logs and relevant data for analysis. Such alerts and advisories are available on CERT-In's website:(www.cert-in.org.in).

(d): (i) National Informatics Centre (NIC) hosting majority of government websites has deployed state-of-the-art technology solutions including Firewalls and Intrusion Prevention Systems. NIC performs periodic security audits of their network infrastructure followed by subsequent hardenings, besides round-the-clock monitoring of security events for taking remedial measures against cyber attacks.

ii) CERT-In is keeping a close watch on the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks through active eco-operation with the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in India. Security awareness training programmes on 'Security measures against DDoS attacks' are also organised by CERT-In for the network administrators in the government and private sector organisations.