

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3188
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
CYBER ATTACKS AGAINST CENSORSHIP
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the case of cyber attacks by hackers against censorship has been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the hackers organization namely 'anonymous' has hacked and slowed down the website of a national agency namely the Computer Emergency Response Team India (CERT-In); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard:

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI MILIND DEORA)

(a) and (b): As per the information tracked and reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), during the period 17 May – 15 June, 2012, a total no. of 25 websites were defaced by the 'Anonymous' group. The same group also launched Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack on 17 websites belonging to Government, corporate-sector and other organizations.

(c): The hacker group 'Anonymous', launched DDoS attacks against the website of Indian Computer emergency Response Team (CERT-In) also during the period May – June, 2012. The hacker group was not able to hack into or slowdown the website of CERT-In.

(d): The specific steps taken by the Government in this regard are: i. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is regularly issuing alerts and advisories regarding DDoS attacks and latest cyber threats alongwith appropriate countermeasures. Training programs for the system/network administrators for securing the websites are also carried out by CERT-In on regular basis.

ii. CERT-In has empanelled a total of 22 IT Security Auditors, who may be engaged by any Government or private organization to conduct security audit of their IT infrastructure.

iii. 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. The existing Government websites are periodically audited from security perspective and vulnerabilities found are plugged. Appropriate technological solutions have been deployed to safeguard the Government websites against cyber attacks like DDoS attacks.