

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4051

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014

CYBER MONITORING

Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

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(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the news-item that the National Intelligence Agency (NSA) of the United States of America is monitoring lakhs of internal addresses throughout the world including India, which not only infringe in the individual privacy but also threaten the security of a country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the American authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction received thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b) and (c): Taking note of the disclosure by foreign media reports in June 2013 about extensive electronic surveillance programmes deployed by the U.S. agencies to collect internet and telephony data, Government has expressed concerns over reported U.S. monitoring of internet traffic from India. The violation of any of Indian laws relating to privacy of information of ordinary Indian citizens by such programmes is unacceptable. It would be a matter of concern for Government if intrusive data capture has been deployed against Indian citizens or Government infrastructure. Government has clearly conveyed these concerns to the U.S. Government.

(d): Government is working to enhance its capacity to protect data and information flows by building better cyber and telephony infrastructure and by evolving new cyber and telecom security practices. Government is promoting Indian players in the Information Technology field to develop and offer Internet Services by having their servers located in India, in order to protect the interests and secrecy of communication of Indian citizens. Already Rediff and Indiatimes have set up servers and accessories in the country to provide email and other services to Indian citizens.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, during the India - US Strategic Dialogue meeting held in New Delhi on 24 June 2013 expressed that the programme does not look at the content of internet traffic or telephony data but only at broad patterns. The programme does not listen to people's telephone conversation or look at the content of individual emails.

Further he added that the programme monitors broad patterns in metadata relating to the directions and flow of data traffic to identify entities that were in connection with known terrorists and places where terrorists operate. Even when an adequate linkage was detected through such monitoring, any access to their communications would still need to be approved by a special US court. Secretary Kerry said that the programme had helped intelligence agencies uncover terrorist plots and save lives. He said that, 'the programme the United States has pursued is a very judicious balance of civil rights, civil liberties, but also of the right of people to live free from being killed by terrorists, and the right we have to be able to protect people in the effort to do that.'