GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3560
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2014
INTERRUPTION IN INTERNET SERVICES
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

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

(a) whether, the Government has taken note of the large number of infected Personal Computers in the country;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken note that cyber crime busting operation freed a large number of infected Personal Computers from control of cyber crooks in foreign country which interrupted Internet services;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check development of malware in Personal Computers ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): Government is aware of the media reports about infection of large number of Personal Computers by specific malware. The reports indicate that infected systems are spread world over including India. Number of infected systems has been identified and action has been initiated to identify more such compromised systems.

(c) and (d): It has been reported that Microsoft corporation has taken action to detect infected systems and take the same out control of cyber criminals in a digital crime-busting operation. During the process, the Internet services being provided by a service provider located in United States of America were interrupted. Interruption of Internet services in India was not reported during the said operation.

(e): The Government has taken the following steps to check malware infection of Personal Computers:

i) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is regularly working in coordination with the Internet Service Providers and Industry to detect infected computer systems in the country, notify the concerned users and help them to clean the infected systems and prevent further infections. Due to these mitigation measures, some of the leading Internet Service Providers have achieved significant reduction in infected systems.

ii) Government has initiated a project for setting up a Centre for detection of compromised systems in India in coordination and collaboration with Internet Service Providers and Industry and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users to prevent further malware infections. The impact would be early detection of malware infections in the country and reduction in compromised systems thereby providing improved security of end users' systems and organizations.

iii) Alerts and advisories about the malware threats are being issued regularly by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

iv) The Government has circulated Computer Security Policy and Guidelines to all the Ministries/Departments on taking steps to prevent, detect and mitigate cyber attacks.

v) Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DEITY) is conducting programs to generate information security awareness. Specific books, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security which are disseminated through Portals like "secureyourpc.in" and "www.secureyourelectronics.in"