

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2895

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Crime using Mobile APPs

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

- (a) whether the cyber criminals are now turning to mobile application and using malware to steal data that could be used for a number of nefarious purposes such as identity theft, blackmail, fraud or pornography;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures the Government has taken to control such malwares in order to protect consumers who are using mobile apps?

Answer

(a) and (b): Proliferation of mobile / smart phones and related applications in all areas is growing in the country. Propagation of malicious apps targeting mobile phones are being reported globally. Such malicious apps could be used for stealing data from infected mobile phones for further misuse by cyber criminals.

(c): Government has taken following measures to check malicious apps and protect mobile phone users:

I. Alerts and advisories about the malware threats and vulnerabilities affecting mobile phones are being issued regularly by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). Further, concerned service providers are notified to take steps to stop propagation of malicious apps.

II. Security tips have been published to enable users to secure their mobile / smart phones.

III. Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) regularly conducts programs to generate information security awareness. Specific book, videos and online materials are developed for children, parents and general users about information security including malicious apps and threats targeting mobile phones which are disseminated through Portals like "<http://infosecawareness.in/>" and "<http://secureelectronics.in/>".
