

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:861
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
SPY PROGRAMME BY US .
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India was one of the countries which came under the US spy network programme PRISM;
- (b) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this matter has been taken up with the US Government at bilateral/other fora;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. RETD. V.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) Government is aware of media reports regarding extensive electronic surveillance done by the US National Security Agency to capture internet and telephony data from foreign countries, including India. The media reports were based on information leaked by Mr. Edward Snowden, a contractor of a private company Booz Allan Hamilton, which was working as a Systems Administrator for the U.S. National Security Agency. Mr. Snowden leaked to media classified information about the PRISM, an electronic surveillance programme that is specifically designed to eavesdrop on internet traffic, including access to emails, chats, voice and video calls, cloud data, social media activity, etc. MEA has no information to indicate whether such intrusions have definitively taken place and if so, how many citizens have been so targeted.

(c) & (d) Government has stated that if any such intrusions have indeed been authorised and have taken place, it will be highly objectionable. Concerns in this regard have been clearly expressed at senior official levels to the US Government. In doing so, India has sought an explanation of the information contained in the press reports from US authorities.

(e) Government is committed to protecting the sovereignty and integrity of the country and the constitutional rights of its citizens. Government continues to raise its concerns on this issue directly and forthrightly with US interlocutors.