Rising Haj subsidy

4514. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government wants to end rising Haj subsidy;

(b)   if so, the details thereof in the Eleventh Plan;

(c)   the reasons therefor; and

(d)   the views of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) The Government is striving to reduce Haj Subsidy. In 2009, Government has taken a decision to increase the air fare chargeable from the Haj Pilgrims going through Haj Committee of India from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 16,000 per pilgrim.

Chinese e-spying on India

4515. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is aware of the findings of the Canada based Information Warfare Monitor revealing that the Chinese e-spying on India's diplomatic missions and defence establishments is much more widespread;

(b)   if so, Government's comments thereon; and

(c)   the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of a report titled Shadows in the Cloud — Investigating Cyber Espionage 2.0 published by the group of researchers from the Munk school of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, Canada. The report pointed out penetration of the Indian information systems belonging to key Government organizations.

An agency of the Government has been investigating such types of attacks by adversaries for some time. Attack attempts were witnessed on selected information systems. An investigation had already been launched into the matter prior to the reports that appeared in the media. The agency is working in close coordination with various agencies and service providers to identify reportedly affected computer systems, their locations and thereafter sanitizing them. The investigation will enable a comprehensive view on the subject to deal with the threats to be worked out.

(c)   The Government has taken several measures to detect and prevent cyber attacks. The details are:—

1.   As per existing computer security guidelines issued by Government, no sensitive information is to be stored on the systems that are connected to Internet.

2. The Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

3. The organizations operating critical information infrastructure have been advised to implement information security management practices based on International Standard ISO 27001.

4. Ministries and Departments have been advised to carry out their IT systems audit regularly to ensure robustness of their systems. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has already empanelled a number of penetration testing professionals through a stringent mechanism of selection to carryout audits.

5. National Informatics Centre (NIC), providing services to Ministries/Departments is continuously strengthening the security of the network operated by them and its services by enforcing security policies, conducting regular security audits and deploying various technologies at different levels of the network to defend against the newer techniques being adopted by the hackers from time to time.

6. The Information Technology Act, 2000 as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 has been enforced on 27.10.2009. The Act provides legal framework to address the issues connected with hacking and security breaches of information technology infrastructure.

   Section 70 of the Act provides to declare any computer resource which directly or indirectly affects the facility of Critical Information Infrastructure, to be a protected system.

   Further, Section 70B has empowered Indian Computer Emergency Response Team to serve as national nodal agency in the area of cyber security.

7. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) scans the Indian Cyber Space to detect traces of any untoward incident that poses a threat to the cyber space. CERT-In performs both proactive and reactive roles in computer security incidents prevention, identification of solution to security problems, analyzing product vulnerabilities, malicious codes, web defacements, open proxy servers and in carrying out relevant research and development.

   Sectoral CERTs have been functioning in the areas of defence and Finance for catering critical domains. They are equipped to handle and respond to domain specific threats emerging from the cyber systems.

   CERT-In has published several Security Guidelines for safeguarding websites and computer systems from hacking and these have been widely circulated. All Government Departments/Ministries, their subordinate offices and public sector

undertakings have been advised to implement these guidelines to secure their websites and computer systems and information technology infrastructure.

CERT-In issues security alerts, advisories to prevent occurrence of cyber incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.

Request of former army chief of Sri Lanka

4516. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether former Sri Lankan Army Chief Mr. Fonseka has requested Indian Government to seek assurance for his protection following incumbent President's victory at Sri Lanka; and

(b)   if so, the stand/decision of Government of India on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (b) In our discussions with the Government of Sri Lanka, the Government of Sri Lanka had assured the Government of the safety and security of former Chief of Defence Staff of Sri Lanka General Sarath Fonseka and that the due process of law will be followed in his trial.

Number of poors in country

‡4517. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)   the total number of poors in the country at present;

(b)   whether it is a fact that this number includes the migrants;

(c)   if so, the total number of this category in various metropolitan cities and cities covered under JNNURM;

(d)   generally what type of occupation they follow;

(e)   whether the Ministry has held any fruitful discussion with Ministry of Labour and Employment for providing social security to these people; and

(f)   if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA RAY): (a) Planning Commission releases estimates of poverty from time to time based on the national sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the latest such estimates of NSSO (61st Round) for the year 2004-05, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the estimated number of poor in the country is 30.17 million which is 27.50% of the population of the country.

(b) to (d) The 61st Round of NSSO survey data do not provide information on migration. So data on migrant poor in metropolitan cities is not available.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.