

**Hacking of Android phones**

†93. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has become easy to hack all the information stored in Android phones by using very simple methods and despite being aware of the same Government has not taken any cognisance thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the steps Government is going to take in this regard as it has totally compromised with the privacy of mobile phone consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Android operating system (OS) generally provides for security features such as access control using PIN, Password, Pattern recognition and/or Biometric. However, it is upto the user to use these security features. Additionally, many applications are downloaded by the user, which require explicit permission for access of mobile phone data, contacts, gallery, photos, email etc. and generally the user permit such requirements for using those applications. This may compromise the security and privacy of personal data of the user.

Government has taken various measures to check malicious applications and enable users to protect/secure their mobile phones. These include issuance of alerts and advisories about the threats and vulnerabilities affecting mobile phones, regular conduct of programs to generate information security awareness etc. Further, Government has operationalised the Cyber Swachhta Kendra (CSK) to enable detection and cleaning of malicious code including from mobile/smart phones. The CSK portal provides users with free tools for cleaning malicious code as well as tools such as M-Kavach for addressing threats that steal personal data related to Android mobile phones.

**Setting up of ITIR in Visakhapatnam**

94. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam district;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received and the present status of the same;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.