

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;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the proposal was placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA); and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when it is likely to be placed before the CCEA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) and (b) A project proposal for setting up of Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh was received in Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 26th August, 2014.

(c) and (d) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) while considering the proposal of ITIR Bhubaneswar which was received on 13.04.2010, had directed that Information Technology Investment Region Policy Resolution, 2008 be comprehensively re-examined in light of the experience gained over time and placed before the Committee. A Note has been submitted to Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on amendment in ITIR policy. The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up ITIR in Visakhapatnam will be put up for the consideration of CCEA subject to the approval of amendment of ITIR Policy Resolution, 2008 by CCEA.

Jobs in IT Sector

95. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IT sector is expected to see upto 38 per cent fewer jobs this fiscal as compared to last fiscal, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country needs to take more actions to ensure high percentage of employment in IT sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI K.J. ALPHONS): (a) No, Sir. The IT Sector is expected to continue to be a net hirer in this fiscal.

(b) The industry, both globally and in India, is witnessing unprecedented technology driven changes. These demand new sets of skills and are opening opportunities for newer job roles. The stakeholders covering industry, academia and Sector Skills Councils are working to ensure that the existing workforce is re-skilled/up-skilled in emerging technologies and job roles. Most companies (large, medium and small) are also implementing rigorous training programs to re-skill/up-skill their existing employees in new and emerging technologies.