

section defines sensitive personal information and also mandate that body corporate must provide policy for privacy and disclosure of information, so that user is well aware of the type of personal data collected, purpose of collection and usage of such information. The rules also specify mode of collection of information, disclosure of information, transfer of information, etc.

In addition, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology has tabled the Personal Data Protection Bill in the Parliament.

Targets of surveillance

2112. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many social media giants claimed that journalists, individuals and human rights activists in the country have been targets of surveillance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation on this issue asking for a probe under court watch; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (d) Some statements have appeared based on reports in media, regarding breach of privacy of Indian citizens on WhatsApp. These attempts to malign the Government of India for the reported breach are misleading. The Government is committed to protect the fundamental rights of citizens, including the right to privacy. The Government operates strictly as per provisions of law and laid down protocols. There are adequate safeguards to ensure that no innocent citizen is harassed, or his privacy breached.

Investigation against social media sites

2113. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Minister of Information Technology or Minister of Home Affairs