

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1039**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 28.07.2023

**DATA BREACHES AND HACKING OF COWIN AND GOVERNMENT WEBSITES**

**1039. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:**  
**SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:**

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether personal data relating to CoWin and certain other Government websites were hacked recently;
- (b) the number of hackings, leaks and breaches of user data that have been investigated by CERT-In in the last five years;
- (c) the names of Government websites hacked and the details of the major incidents; and
- (d) the action that has been taken by Government, including civil/criminal actions against any company or individuals responsible for the breach of data?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) and (d): The Government is committed to ensure that the Internet in India is Open, Safe & Trusted and Accountable for all users. With the expansion of the Internet and more and more Indians coming online, the possibility that citizens being exposed to user harms and criminality has also increased. Government is fully cognizant and aware of various cyber security threats.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has taken cognizance of the cyber incident regarding CoWIN data in June 2023 and coordinated incident response measures with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) which manages and operates CoWIN app and database. The MoHFW has lodged a complaint and F.I.R has been registered by a law enforcement agency. CERT-In has provided inputs to facilitate investigation.

On observing the data breaches and data leaks, CERT-In notifies the affected organisations along with remedial actions to be taken. CERT-In coordinates incident response measures with affected organisations, service providers, respective sector regulators as well as law enforcement agencies.

As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, 'Police' is a State subject. As such, States are primarily responsible for the prevention, investigation etc. of such offences through the State police departments, which take preventive and penal action as per law.

(b): As per the information reported to and tracked by CERT-In, a total number of 0, 0, 14, 6, 27 and 15 data leak incidents and total number of 5, 11, 36, 39, 51 and 49 data breach incidents are observed during the year 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (upto June) respectively.

(c): As per the information reported to and tracked by CERT-In, a total number of 110, 54, 59, 42, 50 and 36 websites of Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments were hacked during the year 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 (upto June) respectively.

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