

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 411
ANSWERED ON- 28/11/2024

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONSHIP

411. DR. JOHN BRITTAS

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Canada has declared India as a cyber threat adversary;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to counter these narratives;
- (d) whether there are any instances of cyber surveillance or other forms of surveillance targeting Indian diplomats in Canada; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure the safety of Indian diplomats?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a to c) Yes. The Canadian Centre for Cyber Security in its biennial National Cyber Threat Assessment (NCTA) report for the period 2025-2026, released on 30th October 2024, placed India under “Section 1 - Cyber threat from state adversaries”. MEA responded to the report on 02 November 2024 stating that it was yet another example of Canada’s negative approach to ties with India. As on other occasions, imputations have been made about India without any evidence.

(d & e) Yes. Recently, consular officials at the Indian Consulate in Vancouver were informed by the Canadian authorities that they have been, and continue to be under audio and video surveillance and that their private communications have also been intercepted. Government of India lodged a strong protest with the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi on this issue. vide its Note Verbale dated 02 November 2024 as these actions were a flagrant violation of all diplomatic provisions. The MEA spokesperson in his weekly briefing to the media also stated that: “By citing technicalities, the Canadian Government cannot justify the fact that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation. Our diplomatic and consular personnel are already functioning in an environment of extremism and violence. This action of the Canadian Government aggravates the situation and is incompatible with established diplomatic norms and practices.”

On the question of safety and security of Indian diplomats in Canada, Government of India remains continuously engaged with the Canadian side to ensure that adequate protection is offered at all times to our diplomatic personnel and properties.
