

Concern over the increasing problem of unsolicited spam, fraudulent audio and video calls *via* WhatsApp and other social media platforms

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE (Goa): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this august House to the growing menace of spam and fraudulent calls, phishing attempts and cyber scams that have become a serious threat to the privacy, security and financial well-being of Indian citizens. In recent times, there has been a sharp increase in unsolicited spam calls, fraudulent audio and video calls via WhatsApp and other social media platforms and deceptive messages sent through emails, SMS and phishing websites. These fraudulent activities are being carried out by individuals falsely representing themselves as legitimate financial institutions, Government agencies and law enforcement authorities. As a result, thousands of innocent citizens have lost their hard-earned money and many continue to fall victim to these digital frauds.

A particularly alarming aspect of these scams is that fraudsters often possess extensive personal details of their victims before initiating contact. This raises serious concerns about data privacy, unauthorized access and sale of personal information by data brokers and telemarketers. Citizens, especially those who are not well-versed in advanced digital technology, are at a higher risk of being duped. The fear and anxiety caused by such fraudulent activities have created an environment of insecurity for mobile phone and internet users. A primary factor contributing to this growing menace is the unauthorized access and misuse of personal data. Spammers and fraudsters illegally obtain phone numbers and personal details through various means, including data harvesting, data mining or purchasing ready-made data from third parties or companies maintaining data banks. This blatant misuse of data raises serious concerns about the privacy and security of Indian citizens. Although the Government has introduced mechanisms such as the Do-Not-Disturb Registry along with various laws and TRAI's efforts to regulate telemarketing practices, unauthorized data sales and privacy breaches remain rampant, leaving citizens vulnerable to exploitation.

Sir, the right to privacy and data security is a fundamental right, and it is imperative that the Government takes decisive action to safeguard its citizens from data misuse and unsolicited calls. I urge urgent intervention to ensure protection of personal data and to put an end to this growing nuisance. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade: Dr. Sasmit

Patra (Odisha), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque (West Bengal), Ms. Kavita Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand) and Shrimati Geeta alias Chandraprabha (Uttar Pradesh).

Shri Tejveer Singh, 'Need to develop new spiritual tourism circuits in the State of Uttar Pradesh to tap tourism potential. Not present. Shri Rajib Bhattacharjee.'

श्री राजीव भट्टाचार्य (त्रिपुरा) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे ज़ीरो आवर में बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ। हम लोग जानते हैं कि उत्तर पूर्वांचल में त्रिपुरा ऐसा राज्य है, जो पहाड़ी राज्य है, जहाँ पाइनएप्पल की खेती होती है। वर्ष 2018 में हमारी सरकार बनने के बाद माननीय राष्ट्रपति द्वारा क्वीन पाइनएप्पल को स्टेट फूड डेक्लेयर किया गया है...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is time for Question Hour. We will give you the opportunity again.

12.00 Noon

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cancer Care Accessibility in Rural Areas

* 181. [The questioner was absent.]

*181. SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cancer care centres, chemotherapy facilities and palliative care services available in rural areas of the country, State-wise;
- (b) the percentage of rural cancer patients who have access to advanced treatments such as targeted therapies, immunotherapy, etc., compared to urban patients; and
- (c) the plan of the Ministry to improve cancer care access in underserved rural areas?