



Ministry of External Affairs

Government of India

[Home](#) > [Media Center](#) > [Parliament Q & A](#) > [Rajya Sabha](#)

Q NO.1296 USA CONTINUING SPYING OVER COUNTRIES

December 11, 2015

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2015

USA CONTINUING SPYING OVER COUNTRIES

1296. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 961 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17 July, 2014 and state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the USA continues spying on many countries including India through Internet and other means, if so, the details in this regard; and
- (b) the action being taken to safeguard the security and sovereignty of India?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) The Government has raised its concerns with the US Government regarding the reported authorization given to its entities to intrude upon the privacy of communications of the Indian Government, its citizens and Indian entities.

The devices on internet are prone to regular scanning from different parts of the world for a variety of purposes, including to penetrate the cyber networks operating in the Government. It has been observed that the attackers use masquerading techniques and hidden servers to hide the identity of actual system from which the attacks are being launched.

- (b) Government of India has taken several steps to enhance the cyber security posture of the country and improve the ability to resist cyber attacks. These include:

Government has formulated Crisis Management Plan for countering cyber attacks and cyber terrorism for implementation by all Ministries/ Departments of Central Government, State Governments and their organizations and critical sectors.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues alerts and advisories regarding latest cyber threats and countermeasures on regular basis. CERT-In has formulated guidelines for securing IT infrastructure. It also conducts regular training programmes for the system administrators.

The National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) has been operationalised. The Centre provides regularly to Chief Information Security Officers of Critical Information Infrastructure organizations, tailored advisories on software/hardware vulnerabilities and alerts on cyber attacks. In addition, policy, audit and compliance reports from Critical Information Infrastructure organizations are analysed.

All Central Government Ministries/Departments and State/Union Territory Governments have been advised to conduct security audit of entire Information Technology infrastructure.

Cyber security mock drills are conducted regularly to enable assessment of cyber security posture and preparedness of organizations in Government and critical sectors.



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