

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding cyber attack on the IT servers of AIIMS, New Delhi.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I wish to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology to the recent cyber-attacks on the IT servers of AIIMS, Delhi that resulted in data losses which have impeded its normal operations, including patient registration, consultation booking and availability of medical records. The origin, intent and extent of the attack remain unclear and I trust that the Government, recognising this as a matter of public importance, will take the House into confidence and the measures be taken to prevent its recurrence.

While the possibility of this being a hostile cross-border attack is of a grave concern which calls for a thorough investigation and tough response, it also reflects the weak data protection safeguards in our country, especially by Government institutions. The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 had created a special category of 'sensitive personal data', including health data, that required stringent safeguards but this has, unfortunately, been done away with in the new draft Bill released by the Government.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to take necessary measures to ensure that sensitive personal data of our citizens are adequately protected and take actions to avoid such data breaches in the future.