

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:806
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2006
DISCOVERY OF E- MAIL WORM
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe

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

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- (a) whether a dangerous e-mail worm has been discovered recently which eats away stored data in computers and generate e-mail messages on its own in the name of computer users;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the technique the Government proposes to introduce to rescue from such dangerous worm Nyxem-e?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): A memory resident mass mailing worm called Nyxem and its variants surfaced on 16th January, 2006. The worm attacks Microsoft Windows systems and spread very fast across the world. The worm propagates by attaching a copy of itself to e-mail messages.

(c): Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has published an advisory to clean and take preventive measures against this worm on its website (<http://www.cert-in.org.in>) and alerted IT users in the country. The anti-virus vendors have hosted tools to scan and clean this worm, which could be downloaded from their websites. The links to these tools are also available on CERT-In website. CERT-In has also published a guidelines for home users on 'Securing Home Computers' which tells about preventive measures to protect against such worms.