

# Beware! Our 'Democratic' State Snoops Its Citizens!

On December 21, the cyber and information security division of the Ministry of Home affairs(MHA) had authorised 10 central agencies involved in security and intelligence to intercept, monitor and descript "any information generated, transmitted received, or stored in any computer resource". Thus the central government has given blanket authorisation to security agencies like intelligence bureau, Research & Analysis Wing (RAW), Enforcement Directorate, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Commissioner of police, Delhi and such other organisation.

With this authorisation the NDA government of BJP has come out with its real nature of despotic authoritarianism, shedding away its democratic and parliamentary pretentions. With this it made it clear that the fundamental rights sanctioned by our 'sacred' constitution or the ruling of nine-bench unanimous finding of the Supreme Court in August 2017 that the right to privacy is a fundamental right or the principles laid in the Indian privacy code, 2018.

When it comes to the labour laws and their information the government and rulers argue about the archaic laws of British Raj that needed to be scrapped. But when it comes to the curtailment of fundamental and democratic rights of the people, the rulers and the government borrow the powers granted to them by the very British Raj laws like the Telegraph act (and its rules) 1885 that allows telephone surveillance and the information Technology Act (and its rules) 2000, which is based on the draconian acts of colonial British rulers. Added to this they depend for their surveillance programmed on the much discredited organisations like Central Bureau of investigation and other agencies which were inherited from the British Raj, and which are not under parliamentary scrutiny.

With this authorisation India is the latest country to join countries such as Australia in implementing mass surveillance. This is a blatant act of the NDA government to spy upon all the people.

The government and the rulers of NDA justify this on the pretext of ensuring national security and to pre-empt terrorist threat and rhetoric of national security.

All along the people around the world are being impressed with the so-called virtues of democracy and parliamentary democracy in which the freedoms of individuals, the rights of individuals and the privacy of individual as a right are given top priority, respect and utmost protection other than any other issue.

But the deception and hollowness in such claims of democracy have been exposed with the present authorisation of mass-snooping, which is already in practice in some other democratic countries.

This blanket order to spy on people is pure and simple form of repression.

That India is a police state has been proved time and again by various draconian acts enacted by successive governments from 1947 to oppress and repress people on various pretexts.

The present day order once again reaffirms that India is a police state under the guise of parliamentary democracy.

One need not fall under the illusion that the NDA government gave such an order to protect national security or to pre-empt terrorist strikes.

The NDA rulers in fact are encouraging and abetting Hindutva terrorism and unleashing those mobs on the common people to terrorise them and fold them in to their embrace.

All the democratic forces shall condemn this and fight against this repressive order that spies upon the people!

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