GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2390
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2022

CYBER CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN DURING THE PANDEMIC

2390. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

Will the Minister of Women and Child Development be pleased to state:

(a) number of reported cyber-crimes committed against women and children during the pandemic, State-wise and year-wise since 2020;

(b) whether Government is taking any special measure for prevention of cyber-crimes against children and women;

(c) whether Government intends to train law enforcement agencies to handle digital forensics and investigate cyber crimes specially against women and children;

(d) whether Government has set up any committee or agency to tackle the rising cyber crimes against children; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication “Crime in India”. The latest published report is for the year 2020. The state-wise details of reported cyber-crimes committed against women and children during the year 2020 is at **Annexure**.

(b) to (e): “Police" and “Public Order" are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. States/ Union Territories (UTs) are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cyber crime through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). These LEAs take legal action as per provisions of law against the offenders. The Central Government supplements the initiatives of the State Governments through advisories and financial assistance under various schemes for their capacity building.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development takes up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) and Ministry of Education for taking appropriate actions to curb the menace and to ensure safety and security of women and young children on online platforms. In order to equip

children in negotiating the online world with adequate safety, Ministry of Education was requested to issue necessary directions to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for incorporating suitable content pertaining to cyber safety in the school curriculum of children and advise State Governments to do the same through their School Boards.

To strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber crimes including crimes against women and children in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken measures in consultation with various stakeholders which, inter-alia, include the following:

i. Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides stringent punishment for publishing, transmitting or viewing Child sexual abuse material online.
ii. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 empower the users of Intermediaries and makes the social media platforms accountable for their safety. These Rules require the intermediaries to adopt a robust grievance redressal mechanism including time-bound disposal of grievances. The Intermediaries need to convey their terms and conditions which must include communication to users not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is inter-alia harmful, defamatory, obscene, invasive of another person's privacy, harm minors in any way or are otherwise unlawful. Intermediaries are also expected to remove any information violative of any law in India as and when brought to their knowledge either through a court order or through a notice by an appropriate government or its authorised agency. The Rules also require Significant Social media Intermediary (SSMI) to endeavour to deploy technology based measures to proactively identify child sexual abuse material.
iii. The Government has established Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under Ministry of Home Affairs, to provide for a framework and ecosystem for LEAs to deal with the cyber crimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.
iv. Under the Nirbhaya Fund, the Government implements a project namely, 'Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)', through which steps for spreading awareness about cyber crimes, issuance of alerts/ advisories, capacity building/ training of law enforcement personnel/ prosecutors/ judicial officers, improving cyber forensic facilities etc. are undertaken.
v. A National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in) has been launched as a part of the project, to enable public to report incidents of cyber crimes, with a special focus on cyber crimes against women and children.
vi. A toll free number 1930 (earlier 155260) has been operationalized for providing assistance in lodging online cyber complaints. Incidents reported on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal are routed automatically to the respective States based on information furnished by the applicant in the incident report for further handling.
vii. Training curriculum has been prepared for LEA personnel, prosecutors and judicial officers for better handling of investigation and prosecution. More than 19,600 LEA personnel, judicial officers and prosecutors have been provided training on cyber crime awareness, investigation, forensics etc. under Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children Scheme.
viii. Under the aegis of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), NCRB has established a National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC) and developed a

Massive Open Online courses (MOOC) platform, namely CyTrain, to offer professional quality e-learning courses for cybercrime investigation to all LEAs, prosecutors, judges and other stake holders. All stakeholders may register on CyTrain Portal (https://cytrain.ncrb.gov.in) for accessing free online training courses on handling cybercrimes and complete them at their own pace. Participants are awarded with an e-Certificate after successful completion of the course.

ix. To spread awareness on cybercrime, MHA has taken several steps that include dissemination of messages on cybercrime through Twitter handle @cyberDost, radio campaign, publishing of Handbook for Adolescents / Students.

x. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued guidelines on 18.08.2017 to schools on the safe and secure use of Internet. This circular directs schools to install effective firewalls, filtering and monitoring software mechanisms in all the computers and deploy effective security policies.

xi. MeitY through a program, namely, Information Security Education & Awareness (ISEA), has been creating awareness among users including women and children highlighting the importance of digital safety while using Internet. A dedicated website for information security awareness (https://www.infosecawareness.in) provides relevant awareness material.

xii. Government has issued an order to concerned Internet Service Providers (ISPs) ordering them to implement Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), UK or Project Arachnid, Canada list of CSAM websites/ webpages on a dynamic basis and block access to such child pornography webpages/ websites.

xiii. The Department of Telecommunications has requested all Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to make suitable arrangements to spread awareness among their subscribers about the use of parental control filters in the end-user machines through messages of email, invoices, SMS, website, etc.

xiv. A MoU is signed between the NCRB, India and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA regarding receiving of Tipline report on online child pornography and child sexual exploitation contents from NCMEC. The Tip lines, as received from NCMEC, are being shared with Stats/UTs online through Nation Cybercrime Reporting Portal for taking further action.

The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 has a provision to deal with menace of fake calls and messages made through internet as medium. Section 66D of the IT Act, 2000 provides for punishment of imprisonment up to three years and fine for cheating by personation.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act contains effective provisions to curb the menace of child abuse. The Act provides mandatory reporting, child friendly provisions of recording of statements and evidence and speedy trial of the cases. There are adequate legal penal provisions including under POCSO Act, 2012 for the sexual offences against the children, as per the gravity of offences.

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ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO REPLY IN PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2390 TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2022 ASKED BY SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL AND SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM REGARDING "CYBER CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN DURING THE PANDEMIC"

State/ UT-wise Cases Registered under Cyber Crimes against Women and Children during 2020.

Sl.	State/UT	Women	Children
1	Andhra Pradesh	375	52
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0
3	Assam	1071	45
4	Bihar	47	1
5	Chhattisgarh	117	21
6	Goa	19	3
7	Gujarat	277	32
8	Haryana	222	33
9	Himachal Pradesh	52	19
10	Jharkhand	20	4
11	Karnataka	2859	144
12	Kerala	246	126
13	Madhya Pradesh	274	39
14	Maharashtra	1632	207
15	Manipur	26	3
16	Meghalaya	39	0
17	Mizoram	1	0
18	Nagaland	2	0
19	Odisha	560	71
20	Punjab	110	10
21	Rajasthan	238	24
22	Sikkim	0	0
23	Tamil Nadu	306	35
24	Telangana	649	9
25	Tripura	3	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	749	197
27	Uttarakhand	72	11
28	West Bengal	344	6
	TOTAL STATE(S)	**10311**	**1092**
29	A&N Islands	3	1
30	Chandigarh	10	3
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	3	0
32	Delhi	51	5
33	Jammu & Kashmir	25	1
34	Ladakh	0	0
35	Lakshadweep	2	0
36	Puducherry	0	0
	TOTAL UT(S)	**94**	**10**
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	**10405**	**1102**