

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UN STARRED QUESTION NO 2542
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2023

CIRCULATION OF CHILD PORN & SEXUAL ABUSE CONTENT

2542: SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- a. Whether the ministry is aware of the recent cases where National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in collaboration with NCRB has identified over 30,000 people in Madhya Pradesh who allegedly circulated suspected child sexual abuse material (CSAM) including pornography, online enticement and contact offences;
- b. If so, details of the action taken so far;
- c. whether Government has conducted any state-wise survey on child sexual abuse material being circulated online and cases registered against the same; and
- d. if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) As per the information received from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), NCRB and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the 26th April, 2019 regarding sharing of Cyber Tipline Reports (CTRs). Intermediaries/Citizens inform the CSAM related incidences to NCMEC, which shares the details related to India with NCRB, in the form of Cyber Tipline Reports. NCRB shares these Cyber Tipline Reports (CTRs) with concerned State/UT for taking necessary action.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was enacted to Protect the Children from Offences of Sexual Assault, Sexual harassment and pornography with due regard for safeguarding the interest and well being of children.

The POCSO) Act was amended in 2019 to include the definition of child pornography under Section 2(da). Further, Section 14 of the Act provides for strict punishment for using child for pornographic purposes and Section 15 prescribes punishment for storing or possessing of pornographic material involving child for transmitting or propagating or displaying or distributing in any manner at any time except for the purpose of reporting or for use as evidence in the Court.

Section 67B of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 also provides stringent punishment for publishing, transmitting or viewing child sexual abuse material online.
