

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3114**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH AUGUST, 2025/ SRAVANA 29, 1947 (SAKA)

**PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM FRAUD AND HARASSMENT VIA
MATRIMONIAL PLATFORMS**

3114 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of rising cases of fraud, fake profiles and harassment of women through matrimonial websites and mobile applications;

(b) whether the Ministry is coordinating with the Ministry of Electronics and IT to frame safeguards for such platforms;

(c) whether any proposal exists to mandate identity verification, such as Aadhaar, to prevent misuse;

(d) what measures are being taken to ensure swift grievance redressal and legal aid to affected women; and

(e) whether Government plans to create a joint regulatory framework to protect women on digital matchmaking platforms?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR)**

(a): National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles statistical data on crimes as reported to it by the States/UTs and publishes the same in its annual publication "Crime in India". The latest published report pertains to the year 2022. The number of cases registered under Cyber Crimes against Women during 2020-2022 is as follows:-

Year	2020	2021	2022
Total cyber crime cases against women	10405	10730	14409

(b) to (e): ‘Police’ and ‘Public Order’ are ‘State’ subjects under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. State Governments/ UT Administrations are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes including cyber crime through their Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). The Central Government supplements and supports the initiatives of the State Governments/ UT Administrations through enacting legislation, advisories and financial assistance under various schemes for capacity building.

The Information Technology (IT) Act 2000 provides penal provisions against various cybercrimes that may arise from abuse, fraud, and misuse on online platforms, including matrimonial platforms. The relevant provisions under IT Act 2000 are as follows:-

- i. Matrimonial websites can be classified as “intermediaries” under the IT Act, and are obligated to exercise due diligence under Section 79, and comply with the IT Rules, 2021.**
- ii. Section 66C – Punishment for identity theft (e.g., creating fake profiles using personal data).**

- iii. Section 66D – Punishment for cheating by personation using computer resources.**
- iv. Section 66E – Punishment for violation of privacy through capturing, publishing or transmitting private images.**
- v. Section 67 – Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene content in electronic form.**
- vi. Section 67A – Punishment for publishing or transmitting sexually explicit material.**
- vii. Section 72 – Penalty for breach of confidentiality and privacy by intermediaries or associated personnel.**

Further, under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, several sections can be invoked to address abuse, fraud, and misuse on online platforms, including matrimonial websites. These provisions cover offences such as impersonation, identity theft, cheating, obscenity, cyberstalking, and violation of privacy.

Additionally, To strengthen the mechanism to deal with cyber crimes in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the Central Government has taken a number of steps which, inter-alia, include the following:-

- i. The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) as an attached office to deal with all types of Cyber crimes in the country, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.**
- ii. 'The National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal' (NCRP) (<https://cybercrime.gov.in>) has been launched, as a part of the I4C, to enable public to report incidents pertaining to all types of Cyber crimes, with special focus on cyber crimes against women and children. Cyber crime incidents reported on this portal, their conversion into FIRs and subsequent action thereon are handled by the State/UT Law Enforcement Agencies concerned as per the provisions of the law.**
- iii. The state of the art 'National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (Investigation)' has been established, as a part of the I4C, at New Delhi to provide early stage cyber forensic assistance to Investigating Officers (IOs) of State/UT Police.**
- iv. The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided financial assistance under the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC)' Scheme, to the States/UTs for their capacity building such as setting up of cyber forensic-cum-training laboratories, hiring of junior cyber consultants and training of LEAs' personnel, public prosecutors and judicial officers.**

v. 'Sahyog' Portal has been launched to expedite the process of sending notices to IT intermediaries by the Appropriate Government or its agency under clause (b) of sub-section (3) of section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 to facilitate the removal or disabling of access to any information, data or communication link being used to commit an unlawful act.

vi. I4C, MHA is regularly organising 'State Connect', 'Thana Connect' and Peer learning session to share best practices, enhance capacity building, etc.
