

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 830
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017

HARASSMENT OF WOMEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA

830 DR. UDIT RAJ:

Will the Minister of Electronics & Information Technology be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the number of cases regarding harassment of women on social media sites are increasing and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken / being taken by the government to put an end to such harassment of women and trolling on social media sites?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM)

(a): Government does not maintain any data specific to harassment of women on social media sites.

(b): There are legal and other provisions to act as deterrent for putting objectionable content on social media including harassment of women on social media sites:

(i) The Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 provides for punishment for publishing or transmitting objectionable contents. The Act provides for punishment through following provisions:

- Section 66E: Punishment for violation of privacy
- Section 67: Punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form.
- Section 67A: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form
- Section 67B: Punishment for publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form.

(ii) Further, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011 notified under section 79 of the IT Act requires that the Intermediaries shall observe due diligence while discharging their duties and shall inform the users of computer resources not to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, update or share any information that is harmful, objectionable, affect minors and unlawful in any way.

(iii) In addition, Indian Penal Code 1860 provides punishment for 354D: Stalking (section 354D) and voyeurism (Section 354C).

(iv) MHA is working on Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) Scheme with an outlay of Rs.195.83 Crores. The Scheme will be financed from the NirbhayaFund.

(v) An Anti-Trolling Helpline is working in the Ministry of Women and Child Development. This provides a platform for women and children to file complaints of abusive behaviour,

harassment and hateful conduct on social media. Complaints are received on complaint-mwcd@gov.in or posted on social media with hashtag #HelpMeWCD. Since inception in July 2016, 165 complaints have been received.
